

Karami cabinet wins confidence

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Omar Karami's newly formed half-Christian, half-Muslim government won a vote of confidence in parliament Wednesday despite a right-wing Christian boycott. The vote, announced by Speaker Hussein Husseini, was 37-3. It capped six hours of deliberations by 40 deputies of the parliament's 67 surviving members. The vote met Karami's desire to get his 30-man cabinet installed quickly and ready to face repercussions of a possible war in the Gulf after the United Nations Jan. 15 for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait (see page 2). "The government of national reconciliation will definitely accelerate the peace process in Lebanon under the Taif accord," Karami told reporters after the vote. He was alluding to an agreement worked out by parliament under the auspices of the Arab League in a special session held in the Saudi Arabian town of Taif in September 1988. In a policy statement before parliament, Karami pledged his government would bring about a national reconciliation that would end nearly 16 years of civil war in Lebanon, disband all Christian and Muslim as well as non-Lebanese militias and shore up the shattered economy.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Volume 16 Number 4594

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 10-11, 1991, JUMA'DAH AL THANI 24-25, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iran reviewing ties with Jordan

NICOSIA (R) — Iran is optimistic about a resumption in diplomatic ties with Jordan after the 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iranian news agency IRNA said. "The issue of resumption of ties is under study with a positive outlook in view of the repeated demands made by Jordanian religious, popular and parliamentary groups during their visit to Iran," it quoted an informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying. The source said recent statements by Prime Minister Mudar Badran expressing a desire for renewed ties would accelerate the process.

European delegation arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A Euro-Arab parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Wednesday on a two-day visit to the Kingdom for talks with senior Jordanian officials. The delegation is expected to hold talks with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Minister of Information and Acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine. The talks will tackle the situation in the region, the developments in the Gulf crisis and its impact on the economic situation on the countries in the region and ways to promote cooperation between the Arab and European countries in the various fields.

Port workers plan sit-in

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Jordanian Ports Workers will stage a sit-in Thursday at 1.00 p.m. in front of Parliament to protest the economic siege imposed on the port of Aqaba. The sit-in will be followed by a press conference in which the union's president, Sadiq Al Fuhaha, will talk about the economic effects of the siege which harmed several sectors in the Kingdom. He will also propose ways to confront this siege.

Belgium confirms hostage swap

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed Wednesday that a Palestinian sentenced to a life term in Belgium will be exchanged for a Belgian family held as hostages for three years in the Middle East. "The principle of an exchange was agreed upon some months ago," said spokesman Johan Verbeke at a news conference. On Tuesday, Walid Khalid, spokesman for the Fatah Revolutionary Council, said it had released four Belgian hostages in exchange for the Palestinian jailed in Belgium. The four were said to be in "another country." The spokesman said a simultaneous exchange would be "the most elegant" solution but he said this was not an absolute condition.

Death toll among U.S. Gulf forces hits 98

DHAHRAN (R) — Two men and a woman serving with U.S. forces in the Gulf died in separate incidents this week taking the American death toll since the start of operation "Desert Shield" to 98. U.S. military statements said that the three deaths were Monday.

Algeria prepares demonstrations

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) is preparing mass anti-war demonstrations throughout the country if fighting breaks out in the Gulf, the party daily Al Moudjahid said Wednesday. "These demonstrations will be the start of a vast campaign to require the end of hostilities, the evacuation of foreign troops from Arab countries and peace resolution of Middle East problems," the paper said. Al Moudjahid said instructions had been given to organize the demonstrations on the first day any fighting broke out.

No breakthrough in Geneva

Baker, Aziz reaffirm positions; next step may be U.N. chief's visit to Baghdad; Saddam issues fresh warning to Americans

Combined agency dispatches

SIX AND A half hours of talks between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States in Geneva on Wednesday failed to produce any breakthrough in efforts to resolve the five-month-old Gulf crisis.

While Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said the talks would have produced better results if they had started earlier in the crisis, sparked by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, American Secretary of State James Baker said Iraq had shown no flexibility in the discussions in Geneva. In press conferences held after meetings, held at a hotel here, neither Baker nor Aziz showed any shift in the positions of the respective countries. The U.S. demanding unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and Iraq saying any solution to the Gulf crisis should come within

the framework of comprehensive addressing all problems of the Middle East, with priority for the Palestinian problem.

In clear, unambiguous tones, Aziz reaffirmed that Iraq was not underestimating the might of the multinational forces arrayed against it in the Gulf, and said the Iraqi people, "part of the courageous Arab nation," were ready for "all worst expectations."

Shortly after the conclusion of the talks, Saddam Hussein told a meeting of senior aides in Baghdad that the Americans "will swim in their own blood" in the event of war in the Gulf.

The Iraqi News Agency said Saddam met with senior members of the Arab Baath Socialist Party Wednesday night.

Saddam told his aides "our armed forces and the great Iraqi people are ready for a showdown that will defeat the forces

of aggression and infidelity. With the help of God, unequivocal victory will be ours," INA reported.

The agency quoted him as saying: "We are not among those who yield to pressure. You shall see what a trap the United States will fall into."

"Should the Americans become embroiled, we will make them swim in their own blood, God willing," he said.

He praised his army's readiness for "a battle in the defence of the dignity of the Arab Nation."

Baker said in Geneva he had failed to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"Regrettably ladies and gentlemen, in over six hours I heard nothing that suggested to me any Iraqi flexibility whatsoever," Baker said.

Minutes later, from the same podium at Geneva's Intercon-

tinental Hotel, Aziz dramatically raised the stakes.

Asked whether Iraq would attack Israel if war broke out, he replied bluntly: "Yes, absolutely yes." But he said Baghdad would not attack Israel or any other party first.

As for the next step, Baker raised the possibility of using the U.N. secretary-general for further diplomacy but ruled out a personal visit to Baghdad for a meeting with Saddam. Aziz said U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was welcome in Iraq.

Baker said that Aziz did not specifically say that Iraq would continue to hold onto Kuwait, but had left the impression it would. He said that Aziz only restated Iraq's previous positions.

Asked whether Aziz made any new proposal for withdrawal from Kuwait, Baker said that

none had come up. He said "the time for talking is running out" and stressed at the 28-nation anti-Iraq coalition led by the U.S. would stand together under the U.N. solution to use force to expel Iraq from Kuwait if necessary.

"Let us all hope that... (the Iraqi) leadership will choose the path of peace," Baker said.

Aziz accused Baker of making threats during the talks but said Iraq would never yield to them. "The tone of his language was diplomatic and polite. I reciprocated. But the substance was full of threats and I told him that we will not yield to threats," the minister said.

He said the meeting, called six days before a U.N. deadline expires for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, was serious and both men had the opportunity to explain their views fully.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan would fight any Israeli assault with all its might, premier tells House

- Kingdom would seek support from Syria, Iraq and Egypt
- It will be a different ball game if Israel intervened

By Abdullah Hasanat

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, Wednesday declared that Jordan would fight with all its military capabilities any Israeli involvement against the Kingdom and would seek Arab help including that of Iraq, Syria and Egypt. "Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has assured me that any Israeli aggression against Jordan will be considered an aggression against Syria and that he will intervene," the prime minister

told the Lower House of Parliament in a statement on the current political situation in the region and Jordan. "We will ask for support and backing from Iraq, Syria and also Egypt," Badran said.

"Jordan is not an easy prey," he asserted adding "we will fight any aggression with all our might."

The prime minister accused the Jewish lobby in the U.S. and world Zionism of being responsible for inflaming American war sentiments. "Israel wants Iraq's military power destroyed," Bad-

ran said.

The prime minister said that in case war broke out with Israel, the whole equation would change because this would be an aggression on the Arab Nation.

"If the Gulf states and people will afford that (Israeli aggression) first priority over the conflict in the Gulf," Badran said. Badran said that a "linkage" between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict need not be fundamental. Principles should be applied equally, he said, so that humanity would believe that the so-called new

world order was based on peace and peoples' well-being.

The prime minister's statement was in response to a motion moved by Deputy Faris Nabulsi, (Amman — Democratic Bloc), who called on the government to mobilise the people to stand against the alliance "that is hostile to Iraq, Jordan, Palestine and the Arab Nation."

Asked by another deputy what Jordan's position would be if Israel started transferring Palestinians from the occupied

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan closes border for evacuees

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday closed its border with Iraq for evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq and said border posts would be reopened only after the international community stepped in and set up an organized system to help deal with people leaving Kuwait and Iraq against the backdrop of a military conflict. The announcement of the closure, which followed repeated Jordanian appeals for international help and warnings that the Kingdom was unable to cope with any massive wave of evacuees, was made by the head of the Evacuee Welfare Committee, Salameh Hammad, and further explained in Parliament by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

"As of today, Wednesday, and until further notice, we have decided not to accept any eva-

cuee from any nationality coming from Iraq and Kuwait unless special repatriation programmes have been prepared for their departure by their respective government and international organisations," Hammad said in a brief statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The closure order would be reversed and the border would be reopened as and when a well-planned system for extending facilities for the evacuees is set in place with international support, Hammad said.

The United Nations, which has drawn up a comprehensive programme for evacuation of people from Iraq and Kuwait, has said that it is appealing to the international community for funds to place the system in place.

Dr. Ali Attiga, the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), said Tuesday the U.N.

would ensure that Jordan was compensated for the amount it spent on the evacuation process.

Over \$200 million had been raised in international contribution to the evacuation process, but the bulk of it came in the form of relief supplies and little in cash to compensate Jordan for the expenses it incurred in extending transport, health, water, power and health facilities for the evacuees during August, September, October and November.

Over 1.625 million people including Jordanians fleeing Kuwait and Iraq following the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait came to Jordan, and the Kingdom drew \$56 million from its own resources to extend facilities to about 865,000 of them — third country nationals — without waiting for prior international contribution. But the Kingdom received only \$12 million in international donations, and re-

peated efforts for the reimbursement of the rest have not been heeded, according to officials.

"Jordan does not have the necessary resources to extend help to the repatriation process and help the evacuees," Hammad said in his statement.

Officials explained that Jordanians would be allowed in through the border post, situated at Al Ruweisat, about 350 kilometres northeast of Amman. Non-Jordanians who are not in need of help from the Jordanian government or any international agency to leave Jordan "might be allowed in but on a case-by-case basis," said an official.

Iraq does not allow journalists to arrive or leave by land except in cases where special permissions are issued.

According to Prime Minister Badran, the closure was also prompted by a Saudi refusal to

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(Continued on page 5)

250,000 settlers forecast in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israel's updated master plan forecasts 250,000 Jewish settlers will be living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip before 20 years pass, an Israeli newspaper reported Tuesday.

The basic 1985 government plan was updated recently to take into account mass immigration, the daily Haaretz said. In 1990, 200,000 immigrants came to Israel, more than 90 per cent from the Soviet Union.

The United States opposes Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. It has asked Israel specifically not to settle new Soviet immigrants in the occupied territories.

About 1.7 million Palestinians live in the occupied territories. Interior ministry officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the

Haaretz report.

The Israeli government has said immigrants are free to settle wherever they choose, but that there was no government policy directing them to the occupied territories.

Haaretz said the government master plan forecasts the number of Jewish settlers increasing from 66,500 at the end of 1988 to 250,000 in the year 2010. Officials have recently said the number of settlers is now about 100,000.

They have maintained that fewer than 0.5 per cent of the Soviet Jews have moved to the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the wave of immigration began late in 1989.

But a Western diplomatic official speaking on condition of anonymity said at least 3,500

(Continued on page 5)

Israel says its army on alert along borders

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has increased its military readiness, Israel Radio said Wednesday.

"The army is on alert in all units, particularly the air force, intelligence and civilian defence. The army is closely following developments along the borders," the radio said, quoting military sources.

It said the outcome of the Geneva meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz would determine whether to continue the alert.

Israel's air force and military intelligence have been on higher alert than usual since Iraq took over Kuwait in August and threatened to attack the Jewish state with chemical weapons.

The radio quoted the military sources as saying the chances of either an Iraqi missile or chemi-

cal attack were low.

The army said it would soon distribute gas masks to one million Israelis in rural areas. About 3.5 million Israelis have already received gas masks and protective kits against chemical weapons.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Tuesday that Israel believes the Gulf crisis can end peacefully if security guarantees are put in place to protect Middle Eastern states from Iraq's military might.

Levy's remarks, as reported by Israeli Radio and later by Israeli officials, appeared to suggest an easing of Israel's stance on the Gulf. Until now officials have said repeatedly that the Jewish state would consider itself endangered if the crisis ended with Iraq's military power.

(Continued on page 5)

Kaddoumi, Ghazali meet in Geneva

GENEVA (R) — Algeria's foreign minister and a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official conferred for an hour Wednesday at the Geneva hotel where U.S.-Iraqi talks on the Gulf crisis were going on, a hotel executive said. Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali and PLO foreign policy chief Farouk Kaddoumi both arrived unexpectedly at the Geneva Intercontinental. Ghazali, who had flown to Geneva earlier in the day, later left the hotel where U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was holding talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. His destination was not known. Kaddoumi told a reporter he expected to be briefed by Aziz after the talks. The PLO's stand on the Gulf crisis has been widely seen as sympathetic to Iraq. It was not clear whether Ghazali had spoken to Aziz or other Iraqi officials. Algeria is expected to be a participant in a meeting on the Gulf situation between Aziz and three foreign ministers of the European Community, French President Francois Mitterrand said on Wednesday. The Algerian capital emerged as a compromise venue for the proposed meeting after the EC ministers declined to go to Baghdad and Aziz rejected a European venue.

King in Rome after talks in Luxembourg

ROME (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Wednesday from Luxembourg after talks with the leaders of Luxembourg, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC), on the Gulf crisis.

The King, who is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, paid a courtesy call on Italian President Francesco Cossiga before holding a round of talks with Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

In Luxembourg, the King met with Prime Minister Jacques Santer and Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, on averting war in the Gulf.

"We certainly regard the role that our friends in Europe are playing is a very constructive role and I hope that the com-

bined efforts and goodwill of all of us will finally prevail in preventing a disaster," the King told reporters at the airport.

Of Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait, the King said, "We are always against the acquisition of territory by war or by annexation."

King Hussein was met at the airport by Poos who made no comments.

King Hussein first paid a courtesy visit to Luxembourg's Grand Duke Jean, then met for 30 minutes with Santer. After lunch, he met with Poos for about an hour.

On Tuesday, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in talks with King Hussein Tuesday, said Iraq has to leave Kuwait.

He said, however, the EC promised to work towards settlement of other Middle East conflicts if Iraq agreed to withdraw.

Jordan brings back six-day work week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is to switch back to a six-day work week, with one day weekend, as of Saturday, Jan. 12, 1991 when office hours will start at eight in the morning and end at two in the afternoon, similar to the situation before Oct. 6 when the two-day weekend was introduced.

The announcement came in a government communique issued by the prime minister's office Wednesday, more than three months after the introduction of the two-day weekend.

The communique said that all government departments would return to the original schedule;

with the exception of certain departments which had been following special arrangements concerning office hours, but all departments will continue to adhere to the special arrangements concerning reducing fuel consumption.

Commenting on the prime minister's statement, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher said that when the government announced the five-day work week for government offices last October it said that the arrangement would be for a trial period only and the

(Continued on page 5)

Aziz to meet EC 'troika' in Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has apparently agreed to attend Gulf crisis talks with the European Community (EC) in Algiers, French President Francois Mitterrand said Wednesday.

Mitterrand told a news conference: "The 12 (EC states) have just taken an initiative which appears, I say appears because of caution, but I think I can say it with assurance, to have the agreement of Mr. Tariq Aziz so that a meeting takes place. Simply it would take place in Algiers."

Community diplomats said Luxembourg, which currently holds the EC presidency had made contact with Baghdad to propose the talks. The foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands would attend on behalf of the community.

The Swiss foreign ministry said earlier Aziz had expressed readiness to discuss the Gulf crisis with EC foreign ministers — but only in Baghdad.

Ministry spokesman Marco

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Ministry spokesman Marco

(Continued on page 5)

Muslim leaders pledge support for Iraq in jihad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Muslim leaders meeting in Baghdad vowed Wednesday to back Iraq and President Saddam Hussein in jihad (holy war) against U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf.

"If confrontation takes place... their heads will be cut off and thrown into the sands of the desert," Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan told delegates in the futuristic congress centre.

In the capital's streets outside the British and U.S. embassies, hundreds of Iraqis roared "We

love Saddam" and "Saddam go forward, we are your army."

Some 350 pro-Iraqi Muslim clerics, scholars and politicians from the Arab World, Turkey, Pakistan and Europe thronged the meeting, by the Islamic Popular Conference called to devise strategy against "conspiracies hatched by the United States and its allies."

Sbeikb Asaad Baiyud Al Tamimi, secretary-general of the Palestinian offshoot of the Islamic Jihad (holy war) movement,

(Continued on page 5)

Khamenei issues toughest yet warning to U.S.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — As a high-ranking Iraqi delegation held its second day of talks in Tehran, Iran's spiritual leader warned Wednesday that Muslim countries will block any efforts by Washington to rule the Gulf.

In a speech broadcast on Tehran Radio, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said "the Muslim nations will not give America and other arrogant powers the right to dictate, or demonstrate its show-of-force" in the Gulf.

Addressing clerics and residents of Qom, the theological centre of Iran, Khamenei said: "Is our nation, and the nations

of the region dead, that America can create a security system in the region for itself, and interfere in the coming and going of ships and other affairs of the people."

"As the crowd chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel," Khamenei referred to the United States as the great Satan, and said: "This region belongs to Muslims."

"We believe that arrogance and the great Satan will not be able to inflict any damage on the Islamic oration of Iran and the

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. backs down on report of Iraqi 'defectors'

WASHINGTON (R) — Embarrassed U.S. defence officials Tuesday backed down on a report that six Iraqi helicopters had flown to Saudi Arabia apparently carrying military defectors from Kuwait.

Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams, who announced Monday that the helicopters had flown to the kingdom, told reporters the Pentagon was now not so sure.

The Saudis flatly denied the report and U.S. and Saudi officials appeared to blame the report on one another.

Williams was pressed by reporters at the Pentagon's regular Tuesday briefing on his statement late Monday that four helicopters landed at Ras Al Khafji, just across the border from Kuwait. Two others landed in the desert, apparently after running out of fuel.

"Let me put it this way," he replied. "The United States has no independent word at this point on whether these reports are true or not true. We continue to press for an answer."

He could offer no clear explanation of why the matter had not been cleared up between U.S. and Saudi military officials — who are supposed to be in close cooperation — more than 18 hours after the original report.

Williams said on Tuesday the original report was apparently sparked by a statement by a Saudi official in Dhahran Monday. But the Saudi Press Agency reported on Tuesday that Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben

Abdul Aziz denied the defection report as "unfounded in form or content."

Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Stu Wagner, a Defence Department spokesman, said earlier on Tuesday: "All the reports have been Saudi government reports ... We're in the process of trying to confirm it (the incident)."

But Williams made no such distinction when he gave information on the six helicopters to reporters late on Monday. He said the U.S. central command in Saudi Arabia was "releasing" the information.

At the Tuesday briefing, Williams said that "there were lots of reports yesterday about various kinds of activity in that (Gulf) theatre of operation."

"There was also a report, or a statement, or an announcement, if you will, by Saudi officials that some helicopters had landed in Saudi Arabia," he added. "Saudi officials higher up in the chain of command today are saying that those initial reports are not true."

"But there are lots of little leads to chase down, and until they've all been chased down, I think prudence would dictate that we not try to take any further steps at this until all of those leads have been chased down."

On Monday night, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nassif Al Jassim dismissed the defection report as baseless and unfounded. It was "wishful thinking," he told the Iraqi News Agency.

U.S. Congress wants to be heard before Gulf deadline

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Congress is racing the calendar to vote on President George Bush's war threat before next week, when a United Nations resolution authorising force against Iraq takes effect.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Tuesday the administration believes the largely Democratic Congress will support the Republican president and authorise him to use force in the Gulf.

One senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush was "mulling over whether to send a letter to Congress spelling out the sort of endorsement he is seeking."

But Sen. Edward Kennedy, a leading Democrat, predicted "a close vote. This nation is not prepared to go to war when there are still the diplomatic options and the peaceful options which are still there." Kennedy spoke on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America."

The House and Senate are

expected to begin deliberations Thursday that likely will lead to a stark choice for lawmakers: Whether to back up the president's threat or to risk deflating it.

Thomas Foley, who leads Democrats in the Lower House of Congress, said Monday that the House will vote on the president's Gulf policy Friday or Saturday. Senate procedures make the timing less certain there, but majority leader George Mitchell said he wants a vote before the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq's pullout from Kuwait.

"I don't know what the outcome of the vote will be," Mitchell told reporters on Tuesday. "It depends to a large extent on how the question is framed."

Meanwhile, the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees scheduled hearings.

Bush "is going to send a message within 18 hours asking the Congress for support

ADC leader protests FBI plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Arab-American leader Tuesday criticised Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) plans to interview businessmen and community figures of Middle Eastern descent as part of efforts to gather information about possible attacks by Iraq.

Albert Mokhiber, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), said the FBI effort will only rekindle suspicion of Arab-Americans, which flared up following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August.

The chairman of a house committee that oversees the FBI also urged the bureau to exercise restraint in its efforts to get information about possible threats.

"Inherent in the current crisis is the very real danger of damage to civil liberties," Rep. Don Edwards, who also is chairman of House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, said in a statement.

The FBI this week ordered field offices to interview more than 200 Arab-American businessmen and community leaders to advise them on the bureau's efforts to protect their civil rights against any anti-Arab backlash.

The FBI said these leaders would also be asked to help the bureau assess possible threats and to supply any information about such activity.

But Mokhiber said the interviews could have a "horrible chilling effect" on the rights of Arab-Americans.

"Rather than helping us in ending discrimination against Arab-Americans, this is going to lead to more discrimination."

Mokhiber cited the case of an Arab-American college professor who learned from colleagues that the FBI had questioned university authorities about his political beliefs.

"The implication is if you have a political view that may differ from the administration, then you are a potential terrorist," he said. "That is the wrong message to send to the Arab-American community. Many Arab-Americans are serving in the Gulf at this moment."

"The organisation, which has received a dozen reports of FBI interviews in the last three days, is seeking a meeting with FBI Director William Sessions to discuss the FBI's programme," Mokhiber said.

FBI spokesman Thomas Jones denied that the effort amounted to harassment or would lead to discrimination against Arab-Americans.

"It certainly is not designed to do that," Jones said. "We are the leading agency for counterterrorism activities in the United States. As such we are carrying out our responsibilities."

Jones said the bureau was concerned that as the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait gets nearer the possibility of "backlash against elements of the Middle Eastern population is extremely high."

"We do want to let them know of our jurisdiction in the civil rights area and our responsibility in terms of counterterrorism and to seek any assistance and cooperation in assessing any potential for terrorist activities."

Edwards said that members of his subcommittee staff planned to meet Wednesday with FBI officials to discuss the programme.

Key U.S. lawmaker sees rapid Gulf victory

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and its allies stand a good chance of scoring a quick victory over Iraq if war breaks out, with a probable 500 to 1,000 U.S. fatalities, a key member of the U.S. Congress said Tuesday.

Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, said another 3,000 to 5,000 U.S. soldiers would probably be wounded in such a war.

He made the comments in a 35-page analysis of the military option in the Gulf based on three weeks of hearings by his committee last month.

Aspin said the toll was acceptable to drive Iraq out of Kuwait and be would vote to authorise President George Bush to use military force if diplomacy fails.

Both the House and Senate were expected later this week to begin debating whether to authorise Bush to use U.S. troops to evict Iraqi forces from Kuwait if necessary.

"While I believe the possibility of achieving a 'bloodless victory' is small, the prospects for a rapid victory with light to moderate American casualties... are high," he said.

"I judge the risk of a bloody campaign, with casualties in the 10,000 to 20,000 range, including several thousand fatalities, to be small," Aspin said.

Aspin predicted the war, if it comes, would begin with allied air strikes against chemical, nuclear and military targets in Iraq, move to massive air attacks on

Iraqi forces in or near Kuwait and end with a ground assault to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

He said the objective would be to push Iraq from Kuwait and not be to kill Iraqi President Saddam Hussein or punish the Iraqis.

Aspin said most U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia will be ready to fight on the U.N.-imposed deadline of Jan. 15 for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war. But he said the latest U.S. units sent to the region will not be ready until February, so it would be better if war came then.

Aspin said he was confident most if not all the main allies in the U.S.-led coalition would join the air campaign against Iraq and the air-land campaign to force Iraq from Kuwait.

"In particular, I believe that Arab forces are willing to engage Iraqi forces in Kuwait and that we should plan accordingly," he said.

Aspin also said Iraq probably would try to break up the coalition and draw Arab states to its side by attacking Israel, but that effort would probably fail.

"Israel is likely to respond briefly and in kind, and our Arab allies are likely to keep on fighting Iraq," Aspin said.

He said a Gulf war would not be long and inconclusive like the war in Vietnam because there were no jungle to hide Iraq forces, neighbours to provide sanctuary or villagers in Saudi Arabia likely to support Iraq forces.

Karami cabinet seeks confidence vote

BEIRUT (AP) — Prime Minister Omar Karami presented his newly formed half-Christian, half-Muslim government to parliament Wednesday, seeking a vote of confidence despite a right-wing Christian boycott.

Aides said Karami was trying to get his 30-man cabinet invested before the Jan. 15 deadline set for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait because of problems that war in the Middle East could bring to Lebanon.

Karami pledged his government would bring about a national reconciliation that would end nearly 16 years of civil war in Lebanon, disband all Christian and Muslim as well as non-Lebanese militias and shore up the shattered economy.

By non-Lebanese, Karami appeared to indicate he would seek to disarm an estimated 6,000 hardcore Palestinian guerrillas based around the port city of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon.

He also said in a policy statement he would seek international assistance to pressure Israel into withdrawing from a border enclave it occupied in South Lebanon that would be brought under Lebanese army control.

"The south should be liberated completely from occupation," Karami said at the parliamentary session that was attended by 40 of the 67 surviving deputies, more than enough for a quorum.

Israel carved out the self-designated "security zone" over 1,100 square kilometres in 1985, when it withdrew the bulk of its occupation army at the end of a three-year invasion.

Karami said his government would "conclude agreements with Syria in all fields to bring about a distinguished relationship serving the interests of

the two sister countries with the framework of each's sovereignty and independence."

Rightist Christians led by George Saadeh's Falange Party and Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, the Christians' main militia, have charged that Karami's cabinet was overwhelmingly tilted towards Syria.

"As long as it remains imbalanced, I am not going to join this government," said Saadeh whose Falange Party is Lebanon's largest rightist political force.

Saadeh and Geagea, as well as Michel Sassi, of the National Liberal party, have refused to take up the cabinet posts assigned to them.

But they have vowed to keep their opposition within democratic rules and refrain from taking up arms against Karami's administration.

More than 150,000 people have been killed since the civil war erupted in 1975. It also caused up to \$18 billion worth of destruction, by latest U.N. estimates.

Karami's aides say he is still hopeful that back-stage efforts will eventually convince the three boycotting ministers to change their minds.

"But the prime minister could not wait for that to materialise with the Jan. 15 Gulf deadline closing in. He wants his government installed to cope with the anticipated economic hazards and shortages," said one aide.

He spoke on condition he not be named.

Beirut is already gripped by fuel and flour shortages. Motorists crowded filling stations and long queues formed up in front of bakeries Wednesday despite government assurances that it has enough stocks for four months.

Turkish diplomat to head UNRWA

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Veteran Turkish diplomat Iker Turkmen was named Tuesday to head the U.N. agency that assists Palestinian refugees.

He succeeds Giorgio Giacomelli of Italy, who has been commissioner-general of the Vienna-based U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) since May 1985 and has been appointed to run a new programme bringing together all U.N. anti-drug activities.

UNRWA provides health, education and relief services for 2.3 million Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Turkmen, 63, was Turkey's foreign minister from 1980 to 1983 and has been ambassador to France since 1988.

He served as his country's U.N. representative in New York from 1985 to 1988 and from 1975 to 1978, and was permanent representative to the U.N. office in Geneva from 1983 to 1985.

He has also headed Turkey's embassies in the Soviet Union (1972 to 1975) and Greece (1968-1972).

Siad Barre appeals for peace

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Embattled Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre appealed for peace Wednesday as fighting between loyalist troops and rebels in the capital Mogadishu dragged on into its 11th day in apparent stalemate.

"The president outlined the huge problems brought about by the civil war," state-run Mogadishu Radio said.

"He said many people had been affected by the war, many of them fleeing from their homes," said the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "He said some people who fled their homes had died of starvation."

But Siad Barre's latest appeal for peace looked set to fall on deaf ears.

The United Somali Congress (USC), one of the strongest rebel groups fighting to oust Siad Barre, a former army commander who took power in a 1969 coup, rejected calls he made last week for a ceasefire and peace talks.

Earlier Wednesday, the rebels dismissed a peace plan put forward by Italy, a former colonial power in the impoverished Horn of Africa country.

Under the plan, drawn up by Italy's ambassador in Mogadishu with Italian government approval, Siad Barre would remain head of state but relinquish most of his powers to a transitional government of national unity.

"The regime of Siad Barre is in pieces. It is inconceivable that just at such a time the Italians ask us to keep it alive," said Abdullahi Hussein Abdi, a USC official in Rome.

The military situation in Mogadishu was confused with little independent information reaching the outside world. Telephone and telex lines to the city have been cut for more than a week.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Maghreb parliament backs Iraq

ALGIERS (R) — The Maghreb parliament, comprising deputies from five North African states, expressed solidarity with Iraq Wednesday in the event of war in the Gulf. "The parliament declares its solidarity with the Iraqi people in the event of military aggression and at any time," said a resolution passed after a two-day session. Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania formed the Arab Maghreb Union in 1989 to increase economic integration faced with a united Europe. The parliament, composed of 20 deputies from each country, has a consultative role. It denounced the presence of American troops deployed in the Gulf and accused them of seeking to "occupy" wells and destroy the military potential of Iraq, which is an achievement of the whole Arab Nation. The deputies attacked Washington's pro-Israeli Middle East policy which it said encouraged the immigration of Soviet Jews to the Jewish state and obstructed U.N. efforts to solve the Palestinian issue. They also called for protection of human rights in their countries and support for moves towards democracy. A resolution expressed the need to "support human rights and protect public freedoms and expand democratic practices in the Maghreb countries."

Libya: Clothes, medicine exempt from ban

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has told the United Nations food, medicine and clothes are exempt from sanctions against Iraq, the news agency JANA said Wednesday. "Banning food, medicine and clothes for Iraq is not included in the U.N. Charter or humanitarian charters," Qadhafi said in a letter sent to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Tuesday. Libya believes the embargo resolution adopted by the Security Council covers "products having a link with war," Qadhafi added. The U.N. Security Council banned all shipments to Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. A U.N. committee decides whether to allow medicine and food sent to Iraq for humanitarian reasons. "I do not think the world accepts the embargo (of food, medicine and clothes) as it would mean a death sentence for the sick, elderly and children... which Libya rejects," Qadhafi said. He said petroleum, arms and chemical weapons were products linked to war and a ban on sending them to Iraq was reasonable.

Japan opposition begins mission

TOKYO (R) — The chief of Japan's leading opposition party left Tokyo Wednesday in hopes of meeting the presidents of France and Iraq to discuss the Gulf crisis, although neither has yet agreed to see her, a party official said. Takako Doi of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) will fly first to Paris, where she hopes to meet President Francois Mitterrand despite not yet having received a reply to her request for a meeting, the official said. She plans to arrive in Baghdad Saturday, but has no scheduled meetings with any officials, including President Saddam Hussein.

Commonwealth meeting postponed

LONDON (R) — Talks on the future role of the Commonwealth by 10 of its leaders have been postponed because of the Gulf crisis, the Commonwealth secretariat announced on Tuesday. They were to have met on Jan. 21 and 22 in London. Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeke Anyaoku of Nigeria contacted leaders of Australia, the Bahamas, Britain, Canada, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Singapore and Zambia to tell them the meeting had been cancelled. Their meeting was called following a 1989 Commonwealth summit to study whether the group's institutions were equipped for the 1990s. It is now expected to take place later this year.

Stripper urged to forget Gulf show

LONDON (R) — Admirers of a stripper called Charisma who is set to entertain U.S. troops in the Gulf have launched a petition to keep her in their northern English pub. "They (pub regulars) are so annoyed they are getting a petition together to keep her in Bradford," striptease agency chief Bob Brogden said Tuesday. But 21-year-old Charisma, whose Gulf wardrobe will include a combat jacket and a fake gun, was adamant about the change of venue. "I can't wait to get over there... it should be fun," Charisma, whose offstage name is Fiona Henderson, will be earning £600 (\$1,200) a week, to disrobe for troops along with two other British strippers aboard U.S. ships. She criticised the Ministry of Defence for banning similar entertainment for British troops. "I think the Defence Ministry are being too-foose-not letting the British troops get an eyeful of us girls too," she said. "It would boost morale. And they should send out a couple of male strippers for the wrens (female troops) out there."

British Phantom crashes off Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — A British F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber crashed in the Mediterranean off Cyprus but both pilots ejected safely, a British military spokesman said Wednesday. The plane was on a routine training flight from the royal air force base of Akrotiri when it crashed 24 kilometres off the southern town of Limassol Tuesday. Helicopters plucked the two pilots from the sea and took them to a military hospital where they were detained for observation.

Saudi radio to broadcast round the clock

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's state radio said Wednesday that it would broadcast round the clock with immediate effect, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The announcement did not say why the radio had decided to extend its programmes just six days before the expiry of a U.N. ultimatum for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face expulsion by force.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
16:00 Koran
16:15 Programme review
16:20 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Cartoons
18:35 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Reportage of Actualities
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Day & Day
21:10 Black Forest
22:00 News in English
22:20 "Intimate Betrayal"

PRAYER TIMES

05:11 Fajr
06:32 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:40 Duha
14:30 Asr
16:54 Maghrib
18:15 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellath
Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assman International Church Tel. 827981, 853525
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3 / 14
Aqaba 9 / 21
Deserts 2 / 15
Jordan Valley 10 / 22

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 13, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 66 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE:
Dr. Hosna Haddad 731267
Dr. Saleh Zayed 790677
Dr. Nabil Al Marqad 770646
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660

REDD:
Dr. Mohammad Al Taani (—)
Al Sharras pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Mufied Ohama (—)
Khalil pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228

blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 883590
Public Security Department 638221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 663381
RJ Flight Information 08-5320
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/52
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642216
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabel Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisat 664171/4
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845

Al-Munasher Hospital 667271/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Islamic, Al-Mudharraq 777101/3
Al-Badr, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Amal Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 09198732
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital 09198333
Zarqa National Hospital 091991071
The Sina Hospital 09198732
DRBD:
Princess Basma Hospital 02273555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02272725
Be Al Nafesa Hospital 02247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 Riyadh (RJ)

10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:25 Laraca (RJ)
11:30 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
11:30 London (RJ)
12:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
12:30 Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:30 Sanaa (LH)
10:30 Riyadh (SV)
10:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TC)
10:30 Dubai (EK)
10:35 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
10:55 Cairo (MS)
10:55 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KL)
10:55 Frankfurt (LH)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
11:45 Rome (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Laraca (RJ)
12:30 Athens (RJ)
12:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Sls per kg.

Apple 750 / 480
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammur) 450 / 400
Beans 450 / 400
Cabbage 90 / 50
Carrots 220 / 180
Cauliflower 200 / 140
C

Queen briefs society on impact of crisis on Jordan

ROME (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor met Wednesday in Bonn with the president and members of the Jordanian-German Friendship Society and briefed them on the socio-economic impact of the Gulf crisis on Jordan.

Peace group urges dialogue, international peace conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A peace group currently on a visit to Amman proposed Wednesday that all peace groups unite under the auspices of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and called the NGOs to hold a symbolic peace conference in a demilitarized Kuwait or in Amman.

The group, Peace Volunteers in the Middle East, issued a press release at a press conference in which delegations representing peace organizations from the U.S., Australia and other countries took part.

Following is the text of the press release: Since the 12th of October six delegations of the Italian Peace Volunteers for the Middle East have been continuously, in revolving shifts, in Baghdad to promote dialogue and friendship instead of hostility and war. The volunteers belong to different non-violent, ecological, religious and solidarity organisations, including Pax Christi, War Resisters, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Military Tax Resisters, Kronos 1991 and Maniteze.

We suggested and opened with the Iraqi Peace and

years in promoting better understanding and closer cooperation between Jordanian and German nationals and thanked the society for its constitution to the relief efforts.

In Luxembourg, during a luncheon hosted by the Grand Duchesse, Queen Noor briefed those concerned with international assistance on Jordan's current circumstances and plans for cooperation in socio-economic development efforts.

Through our involvement in the Peace Camps we have met the many international delegations who have come to Iraq with their various requests and messages of peace.

We think it is essential at this time of crisis for all the international peace groups to unite under the auspices of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations.

Now we are calling for United Nations NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) to hold symbolically an international peace conference in a demilitarized Kuwait, for a global negotiation on all Middle East issues. The alternative location to Kuwait would be Amman, Jordan. This proposal has been presented to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, the Office of Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, and the United Nations, where it was received with strong interest.

Teachers demand union

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of teachers employed by the Ministry of Education held a meeting at the Professional Association Complex in Amman Wednesday and demanded that they have their own union.

"We refuse any substitute for a union, like clubs or leagues, and we demand that a teacher's union be set up as soon as possible," said the teacher's representatives at the meeting.

The meeting was held after a statement by Education Minister Abdullah Al Akaleh who welcomed the idea of a teachers union. "Special attention is needed for the educational sector and we must provide for the setting up of a union to help promote the teacher's work and protect their interests," Akaleh said recently.

"Jordanian teachers have been vanguards in the process of constructing Jordan, providing education to the new generations at all levels," said the spokesman for the group at the meeting.

Mr. Ahmad Yousef, who is heading a follow-up committee for the creation of the union, said that he had been in contact with various parliamentary blocs in order to pave the ground for the birth of the new union. "Eleven deputies have adopted and supported the project and the whole question will be discussed in the presence of the Cabinet in Parliament later," said Mr. Yousef in his statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times.

Mr. Yousef, who addressed the meeting earlier, urged all teachers to back efforts for the formation of the union which, he said, is quite viable now under democratic rule in the Kingdom.

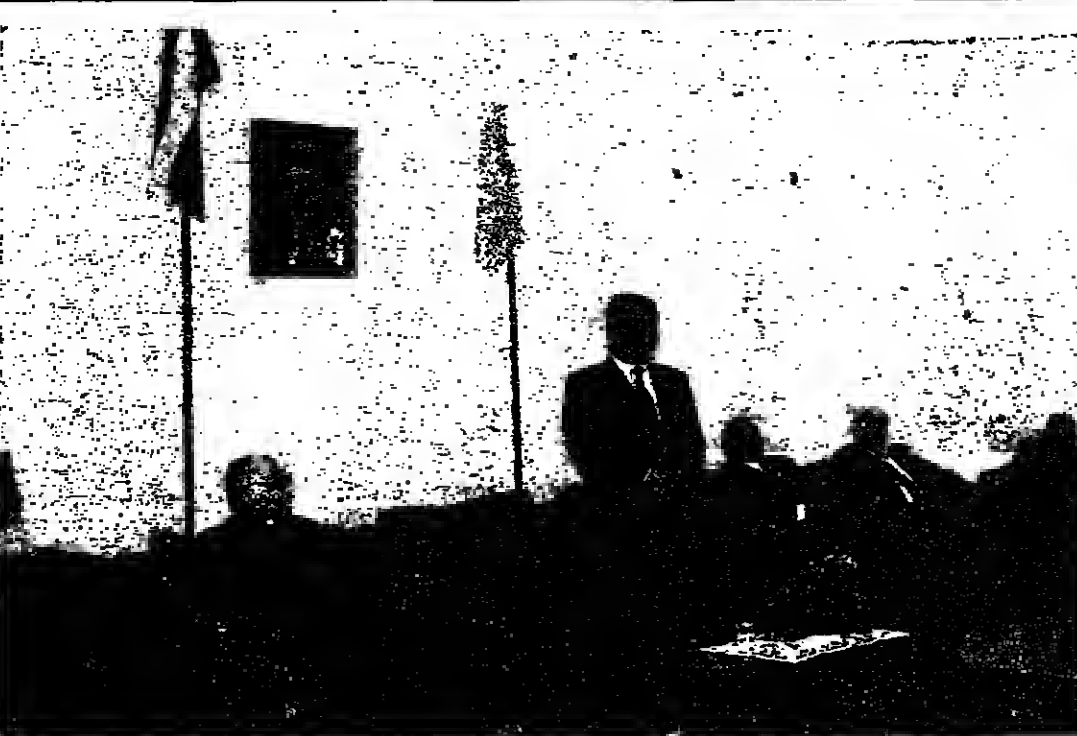
Another speaker, Kamel Frejat, said that a teacher's union is not a political party but rather an entity helping to promote the teaching profession and protecting the teacher's interests.

A school principal, Fairus Qamleh, said that Jordan has nearly 60,000 men and women teachers who deserve to have a union of their own and contribute to the country's development.

Other speakers said that the teachers union would not have any political ends and would rather serve the country's interests working along with the other unions and associations and protecting the teachers' interests.

They said that the demand for a teacher's union was quite legitimate under democracy rule.

Towards the end of the meeting it was agreed that the teacher's representatives gather again Wednesday at the Professional Association Complex to discuss the issue of the projected union.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday meets with Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah and senior Christian clergy in Jordan (Photo Yousef Al-Ahmad)

Prince Hassan, patriarch of Jerusalem hold talks

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's current tour in Europe enhances the Kingdom's continuing endeavours to not only find a solution to the Gulf crisis, but to establish peace in the whole Middle East region, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday.

Speaking during a meeting with Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah and several senior Christian clergy in Jordan, the Regent said that the King had always been keen on pursuing efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and in the occupied Arab territories.

The Regent underlined the need for establishing a dialogue based on mutual trust within the society and for enhancing the concept of political pluralism which is provided for in the national charter.

The region's problems, the Regent said, demand rational and brave stands on the part of the society and not religious fanaticism.

The Regent criticised fanaticism in certain Christian and Muslim societies, especially in the United States.

At the outset of the meeting the patriarch delivered a speech lauding the Regent's efforts and pledging continued prayers for peace in the region.

Present at the meeting was Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid and Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin.

He urged the international community to come to Jordan's assistance and honour its financial commitments to the country which has served as a haven for hundreds of thousands of evacuees from the Gulf.

Regent warns of consequences of military confrontation in Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday briefed a group of American students on Jordan's endeavours to find a solution to the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework and expressed hope that the Baker-Aziz meeting in Geneva would find a breakthrough in the search for peace.

The 13-member group affiliated to an association called "Fellowship for Reconciliation" is currently on a tour of the region urging leaders to work for peace.

The students, who came from a number of American universities, heard Prince Hassan stressing that an Arab solution to the crisis would contribute most positively towards the implementation of the international legitimacy.

The Regent warned of the grave consequences of a military confrontation in the Gulf and said Jordan was pursuing efforts at all levels to reach a settlement.

The Regent also briefed the visiting group on Jordan's sufferings and said the Kingdom was the country the worst affected by the Gulf crisis.

He urged the international community to come to Jordan's assistance and honour its financial commitments to the country which has served as a haven for hundreds of thousands of evacuees from the Gulf.

Earlier last week Ortega said in a press conference that his proposal represented "the spirit of the third world." According to his proposal, Iraqi troops would start a gradual withdrawal from the Kuwaiti territories in return for a pledge by the United Nations permanent members and the international community to hold an international conference on removing all weapons of destruction in the area, and a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"If Israel rejects this... the Security Council should then call for the application of sanctions just as it did in the case of Iraq and Kuwait," Ortega had said in the press conference.

Ortega conceded that there was an urgency in launching his proposal, but said that this did not necessarily mean that it should be launched before Jan. 15 because "in principle we are against the deadline," Ortega said.

Ortega, who toured the Baqaa refugee camps Wednesday, will leave Amman for Baghdad Friday to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Ortega stresses need to settle Gulf crisis peacefully

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Amman Tuesday for the third time in this region since the start of the Gulf crisis on Aug. 2. Ortega, head of the opposition leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front, says that now he has a clearer understanding on the situation in the Gulf, after holding talks with several world leaders including French President Francois Mitterrand, former German Chancellor Willy Brandt and United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

During his meeting with de Cuellar, which took place Monday, one day after de Cuellar's meetings with United States President George Bush, Ortega said that they both stressed on the need to end the Gulf crisis peacefully. "Perez de Cuellar told me that the Jan. 15 deadline is not a deadline and it does not allow any country to use force. He (de Cuellar) is trying to interpret it (U.N. resolution 668) differently," Ortega told the Jordan Times in an exclusive interview.

According to diplomatic sources close to the United Nations, de Cuellar is considering a last minute visit to Iraq if the

Saudi Arabia closes air space to IOM flight

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Saudi Arabia Wednesday refused to allow a plane carrying Vietnamese evacuees from Amman to Hanoi to use its airspace, but there is no indication that regular Royal Jordanian flights in and out of Jordan would be affected, Jordanian officials said Wednesday.

The Saudi refusal was first disclosed in Parliament by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who said the Saudi authorities allowed two of three Vietnamese evacuation flights chartered by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) but denied the third one access to Saudi airspace.

A senior RJ official said the denial applied only to the IOM flight and "none of our regular flights which use Saudi airspace have been affected."

The RJ official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had no idea why the Saudis banned the evacuee flight. But industry sources said the move appeared aimed at cutting RJ revenues by not allowing the Jordanian national carrier to fly charter flights over Saudi territory.

"It seems that the Saudis would like IOM to charter Egyptian planes for the evacuation," said one source. "The ban was applicable only to RJ charter flights," he said.

The RJ official reaffirmed that the airline had drawn up a contingency plan to deal with the eventuality of Saudi Arabia closing its airspace to all commercial air traffic in the event of a military conflict after the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war.

He said the plan was also taken in light of the already high "war risk" insurance, which has forced many airlines to cancel their flights to the Middle East in the run-up to the Jan. 15 deadline.

"If insurance premiums increase we may have to send part of our fleet to a hub station outside the area designated a war zone," the official, who preferred anonymity, said. But, he said, RJ would take such action only if requested to do so by the leasing company, Airbus. Tunis may be a potential hub station for the RJ aircraft, he said.

The official said that even if the Saudis closed their airspace in case of war, this would not affect flights to Europe and North America, which use Syrian airspace.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the Lower House of Parliament that he had information that Egypt was planning to close its airspace on Jan. 13.

The premier also alluded to the possibility that Saudi Arabia might close its airspace altogether for commercial air traffic in the event of war and pointed out that this would result in hundreds of thousands of foreigners fleeing the war theatre getting trapped in Jordan.

In view of the situation, he told the Lower House, Jordan had closed its borders with Iraq for non-Jordanian evacuees and requested Iraq not to allow any evacuees to cross into Jordan.

The RJ official said the airline had not been informed of Egypt's move to close its airspace on Jan. 13. Reports from Cairo, subsequent to the premier's statement to the House Wednesday, quoted Egyptian airport officials as saying that the country did not plan to close the airspace. The officials were not identified.

"There are no plans to close the airspace either now or after Jan. 15," an official quoted by Reuters said. "Accordingly, if there is a quick political decision (to close the airspace), we will abide by it," he added.

Food supplies to last for nine months-Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has food stocks and other supplies to last the country for at least nine months, but the process of building up the reserves required gigantic efforts at all levels, Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced in Parliament Wednesday.

"We have sufficient supplies to last Jordan for even more than nine months, helping the country hold fast under all circumstances and eventualities," the prime minister said during his address to the deputies about the prospects of war and peace in the region as the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to pull out its troops from Kuwait draws closer.

Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub who was present at the Parliament session echoed the prime minister's statement and said that under difficult conditions it is only natural for the country to adopt measures to safeguard the nation's best interests.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher told the Jordan Times that the fuel situation in the Kingdom was good, but he would not go into details. He said no country in Jordan's position could ensure sufficient stocks of oil products for many months, "but still Jordan's fuel stocks are in excellent condition and the country is ready for any emergency."

In view of the Gulf crisis, the government last September introduced a rationing programme, allowing Jordanians to have one and a half kilograms of sugar and rice every month and one kilogramme of powdered milk every four months at subsidised prices.

But markets are full of supplies, including these three commodities which sell at the normal prices. Recently the Ministry of Supply also restricted the sale of flour to households and bakeries after discovering that amounts were being smuggled for sale abroad since Jordan sells bread and flour at a lower cost than is the case in the neighbouring Arab states.

Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub had toured the ministry's warehouses and announced on television that the country had sufficient stocks of all types of food; he warned against hoarding.

Jordan imports all of its oil from Iraq now at the rate of 41,000 barrels a day, down from 66,000 barrels a day before the Gulf crisis began, according to informed sources here.

Jordan used to rely on Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for about 90 per cent of its oil annually when the country used to consume nearly 22 million barrels of oil a year.

According to Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin, Iraq is now selling Jordan most of its oil needs under a special arrangement under which Iraq is repaying a \$310 million debt to Jordan incurred during the Iran-Iraq war.

Badran says six corruption cases have no legal grounds

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday passed a number of laws, referred other bills to its various committees and heard government replies to deputies' queries.

The House passed a bill, the law for revenue stamps, that increases fees levied by the government on contracts, shipping manifests, bills of lading, mortgage and lease contracts, life insurance policies and treasury cheques.

According to a government statement, the increases will bring in an extra JD 3 million income for the treasury.

Another bill passed was an amendment to the criminal procedures law. According to the amendment, convicts can be rehabilitated under certain conditions. These include a full serving of the sentence or a pardon, a minimum period of probation and good conduct.

The House referred six draft laws to its Financial Committee after being examined by the House legal committee. They are the pension law for 1976, the Central Bank law for 1975, the Central Bank law for 1979, the customs law for 1983, the customs law for 1978 and another customs law for 1986.

The House referred recommendations made by its Agriculture Committee to the government to consider. These included cancellation of interest on agriculture loans drawn until the end of 1990 and rescheduling of the loans for six years free of interest.

The committee also recommended that the minister of agriculture should brief the House on his ministry's policies. The government agreed to make a statement on its agricultural policy within two weeks. A date will be set by the House speaker.

Earlier in the session, Parliament's Secretary General, Dr. Saleh Zuhbi read the government's answers to deputies' written queries. In an answer to a question by Deputy Ahmad Awaidi Abadi, the prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, said that a probe into corruption revealed that certain cases had no legal grounds for prosecution. These are: the sale of the Central Bank gold reserves, the settlement of the contract with Martin Kowley company that worked on the Hijazi railway extension, the Joseph Bell contract for the Jordan Valley's King Talal Dam project, the Jubeha amusement park.

The prime minister said that after preliminary investigation, the Azraq-Jafar case, the Abn Nuseir housing project case and the Ministry of Supply's purchase of rice, meat and barley were referred to courts.

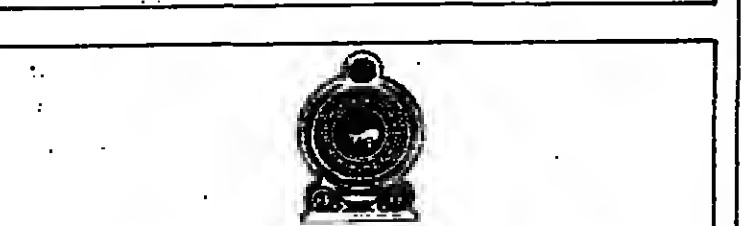
The case of the Swaga prison first phase project, Badran said, was referred to the House, while the prison's second project case was closed for lack of evidence.

He said that the former head of the Department of Standards and Metrology at the Ministry of Industry and Trade was being sued for giving a false document testifying that certain goods were fit for consumption despite their failure at laboratory tests.

In an answer to another query by Deputy Abadi, the president of Muna University, Dr. Awad Khleifat, said that because Jordanian professors shunned joining his university unless given certain privileges, he was obliged to appoint other Arab nationals and foreigners as faculty heads.

While Mr. Khleifat said in his written reply that the practice "takes place in all universities in the world," Mr. Abadi insisted that it was not a safe practice to employ foreigners as department heads at "our only military university."

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171



NOTICE
The General Honorary Consulate of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka / Amman.

In order to take care of the interest of the Sri Lankan citizens, providing assistance and communicating with them as soon as possible in the event of any need to them and for the sake of facilitating the business of the Consulate, all Sri Lankan citizens residing in Jordan are requested to report to the consulate as soon as possible at its offices at Jabal Amman, First Circle, near Malhas Hospital, P.O. Box 3096 phone 645311, 645312 for the purpose of registering their names and providing it with the following information: the name in full with the number and place and date of issue of the passport, the place of residence in Jordan with the number of telephone if any in addition to their addresses in Sri Lanka.

Citizens who can not report personally to the consulate are requested to send the required particulars by mail as soon as possible.

Also the employers of these citizens are kindly requested to inform them and let them have access to this notice and its contents in order to safeguard the interest of all parties concerned.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Press office inaugurated at Plaza Hotel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Ministry Secretary General Trad Al Fayed Tuesday inaugurated a press liaison office at the Amman Plaza Hotel. The office is manned by an official from the ministry. The press office will facilitate issuance of press permits to journalists, liaise and coordinate activities of the foreign networks and provide direct international telephone lines, telex and facsimile lines to them.

Romanian foreign minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase will arrive in Amman from Damascus Thursday on a three-day official visit to Jordan. Nastase will convey a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Romanian President Ion Iliescu. He will also meet His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on the current situation in the region, bilateral relations and ways to enhance them. The Romanian official is accompanied on his visit by a delegation comprising parliamentarians and Foreign Ministry officials.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جريدة الأردن اليومية عربية سياسية مستقلة نشرت بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Geneva not a failure

THE WORLD held its breath yesterday, hoping that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz' talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would be successful enough to avert war in the Gulf. Some of us were even looking for a breakthrough in efforts to solve the crisis peacefully and politically. That, unfortunately, albeit unsurprisingly, did not happen. The result is that the world is no closer to war than it had been a day earlier; and the effort, although not a great success, is not a total waste either. On balance, then, it would be wrong to label the Geneva talks as a failure.

In his press conference following the six-and-a-half-hour meeting last night, Secretary Baker agreed that the outcome had left him in a sombre mood, but in no way did he say or imply that he had lost hope in finding a peaceful solution to the Kuwaiti issue. Mr. Baker was disappointed that he did not detect any flexibility on the Iraqi side, it is true. But he is an experienced enough diplomat and statesman to have figured out beforehand that Tariq Aziz was not going to hand him an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait on a silver platter. Such a decision, if it is to be taken, will be made by Saddam Hussein, not by any other Iraqi leader; furthermore, it would be made in Baghdad, not in Geneva or in any other capital. This point could not have been lost on Mr. Baker, who equally could not have made the decision on linking the Palestinian problem to the Gulf crisis. It will have been most useful, though, if the U.S. secretary of state took for him that the Iraqis still wanted him to go to Baghdad, as we indeed believe he has, by leaving the door open for future talks and stressing the need to consult with America's partners in the U.S.-led international coalition before another political move was made to avert war and disaster.

There are other positive elements that can of course be cited in the Iraqi-American talks. By both Messrs Aziz's and Baker's accounts, the dialogue was conducted civilly and professionally, free from the tone of threats and intimidation that has hitherto characterised the language used by American officials, from the president down. Then there were the disclosures by Secretary Baker that President Bush had not actually taken a decision to go to war with Iraq and that the Iraqi foreign minister had not told him that Iraq wanted to keep Kuwait or that he had ruled out a change of position by the Iraqi side on the issue of withdrawing from there. Mr. Baker also let it be known that there might be an important role for the U.N. secretary general to play in the next few days, as Mr. Aziz did underline that Mr. Perez de Cuellar would be welcome to visit Baghdad.

In sum, and in whichever way the Geneva meeting is looked at, the communication that started yesterday cannot be considered a failure. What had been a failure, as the Iraqi foreign minister pointed out in his press conference, is the fact that the U.S. administration had waited for over five long months to open talks with Iraq.

It is during this period of time that misunderstandings grew bigger by the day, and escalation threatened to go out of control irreversibly. And this could have been avoided.

Where we go from here is crucial but not terribly certain. The hope remains that it is not too late to build on the dialogue that has finally started. Nobody, not the Americans nor the Iraqis nor anyone else, can afford to have the peace effort aborted. There simply is too much at stake for the world to allow war to happen.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE SHOULD not worry if the Baker-Aziz meeting lasted only for five minutes because Baker is bound to present his last ultimatum to Aziz; and the latter is expected to do the same thing by reiterating Iraq's clear position, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that Baker would be backed by the allied forces which arrived in Saudi Arabia to loot Arah wealth while Aziz is backed by millions of honest and peace-loving Arabs and Muslims bent on supporting Iraq's views at all costs. The paper said that right and justice are on the Iraqi side and its people and armed forces would not be less heroic than the Vietnamese people, who dealt an ignominious defeat to the Americans, and the Afghan people, who humiliated the Soviets and their armed forces. The Iraqis and their brave Arab and Muslim supporters are quite ready to settle the account with the Americans and their unholy alliance, the paper noted. It said that Baker will listen to the words of Tariq Aziz telling him that he is speaking for the millions of honest Arabs and Muslims who have for so long suffered from the actions of the colonialist powers. Now that Iraq has finalised all preparations for confronting any aggression, Aziz is bound to make it clear to Baker and his alliance that the Arabs and Muslims will no more accept humiliation and subjugation, the paper added. The paper wished Aziz success in his endeavour and also wished Baker success if, it said, he came to Geneva to seek peace and not to reiterate Washington's ridiculous threats.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the dispute between the dairies and the farmers and cattle breeders and praises the latest decision by the Ministry of Agriculture to ban the use of any amount of powdered milk in the dairy products. Nazih says that the decision will help the farmers market their milk which in the past used to be dumped with great losses incurred by the farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture has finally come to their rescue, he said. By banning imported milk, the country is bound to save a great deal of foreign currency and the farmers will be encouraged to increase production to be marketed in the Kingdom, says Nazih. The dairies will no doubt find that fresh milk is less expensive than the imported powdered milk, and can be acquired at any moment without difficulty, he argues. But he says that should the dairies decide otherwise, they would be causing a great damage to the farmers and the national interest; in this case the Ministry of Agriculture has to step in again to put things right.

Beyond the Gulf: Prepare for a peace conference

By Jimmy Carter

ATLANTA — "Linked" or not, there is no way separate the crisis in the Gulf from the Israeli-Palestinian question. Following a settlement with Iraq, either through peace or through war, even greater pressure will emerge within the international community to convene a peace conference.

United Nations resolutions on the Middle East, from four decades ago to the present, have been given a new vitality and will not go away again.

Now is a propitious time for Israel to come forward with a genuine peace initiative, and President George Bush and U.S. congressional leaders should do everything possible to encourage such a move, present difficulties are formidable, but real progress is possible.

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel rejected talks with a Palestinian delegation. The Israeli government fell and intra-familial violence escalated. Since then, alignment of Syrian and other Arab forces with the United States against Iraq, economic calamity for Jordanians and Palestinians, the Temple Mount tragedy and massive immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel are all increasing friction in the occupied territories.

Historically in the Middle East, stalemates or localised tensions have tended to deteriorate into broader conflict. Having long been involved in the peace process, I realise how important it is that setbacks not deter exploration for new ideas and opportunities.

I was distressed when Menachem Begin became prime minister in 1977, given his first speeches as Israel's leader. However, it was his willingness to negotiate with

President Anwar Sadat at Camp David that made the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty possible.

In my meetings last year with Likud leaders in Israel, they re-emphasised their opposition to an international conference, claiming that the United Nations and the Soviet Union would always support Arab positions. This concern about Soviet attitudes has been mitigated by the remarkable emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and resulting diplomatic

exchanges between the two countries.

Although the subtle differences are significant, Arab and Israeli leaders actually have a lot in common. While calling for mutual security, for peace and for economic interests in the region to be addressed, Israelis have insisted on bilateral negotiations with Arab neighbours instead of with a phalanx of adversaries.

Among Palestinian leaders and those in Lebanon, Syria,

Jordan and Egypt, I have found uniform support for a peace conference and willingness under its auspices for direct talks with Israel. President Hafez Al Assad of Syria confirmed that, under such conditions, he is willing to negotiate directly with Israel to resolve the Golan Heights dispute.

Both Israeli and Arab leaders have now called for a regional conference to reduce arsenals of mass destruction. Another surprise development in the area has been encourag-

ing: In Lebanon, militia groups have withdrawn from Beirut and are finally negotiating with each other; a viable central government is evolving with more representative participation.

A carefully crafted peace conference under the bilateral sponsorship of the United States and the Soviet Union — if not the United Nations — could overcome Israelis' objections about inherent bias against them. President Mikhail Gorbachev has

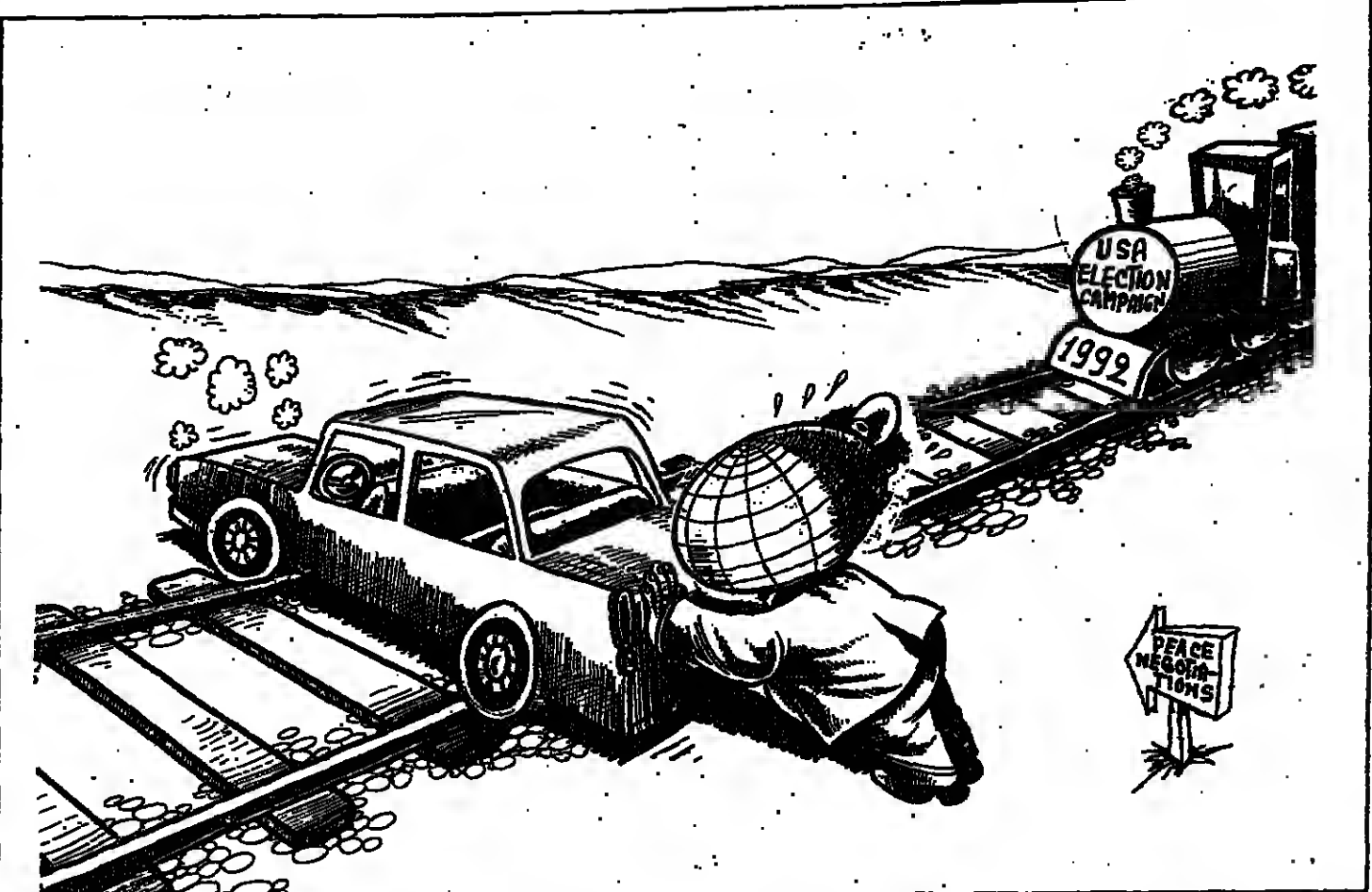
assured me that this is acceptable and that he would not try to impose his veto on negotiations reached by the Arab negotiators in their talks.

The principles of the David Accords can provide a framework on which opposing forces might negotiate and adopt overwhelming vote Israeli Knesset, the business have been subsequently approved, with only variations, in various statements and in P. Ronald Reagan's speech September 1982. It quickly accepted by K. Yasser Arafat and other originally rejected these terms, now claim will to accept them as a basis for peace initiative.

There has to be go on both sides. Tragic PLO charter remains its call for the destruction of Israel. Likud leaders professing support for David reject some of its tenets and those of U. solution 242, apparent yet willing to negotiate representative Palestine to relinquish control of areas taken in the 1960s.

Differences over Camp David tenets are well defined. This is peace talks are all about resolve such disputes modify adamant positions adversaries.

There is no doubt if people of the region peace. This brings us fundamental question: V Middle East leaders respect the will of their people international conference be the only chance. — New York Times



Marek Halter: No thanks to you

By Dr. Labib Kamhawi

IN his evidently panicky letter addressed to His Majesty King Hussein in The New York Times, Israeli writer Marek Halter successfully defeated his own purposes.

Whether airing his own views, or acting on behalf of others, or trying to usher futuristic designs for this area, Marek Halter committed a basic mistake. He tried to take the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Arabs, and the world community for fools. Halter was trying to tell the Palestinians and everybody else the following:

— That King Hussein is the enemy of the Palestinians and not Yitzhak Shamir.

— That Jordan, and not Israel, is the problem.

— That the persistent, highly explosive and very complicated Palestinian problem could easily be solved if one man, namely King Hussein, abdicates.

— That for the past four decades the obstacle to peace has been King Hussein and not

the consecutive Israeli governments.

Twisting facts and distorting them do not make them true or correct, no matter how many times they are repeated, if Halter lost, for whatever reason, track of the facts, the children of the Palestinian intifada can repeatedly move him onto the right track.

Jordan is not Palestine. And if there are many Palestinians residing in Jordan, it is because the Israeli army forced them out of their land in Palestine, and still refuses to allow them to go back to their homes and lands.

The Palestinians have no quarrel with King Hussein. Their problem is with the Israeli government. Moreover, there are more Palestinians under Israeli military rule than those residing in the democratic state of Jordan. And, in applying the same analogy used by Halter, why doesn't the Shamir government, then, leave office, thus allowing the Palestinians to take charge of

their own destiny on their own Palestinian land? Or have double-standards become a standard policy for some in this world?

In order to refresh the memory of Halter, and that of others who may choose to think like him, here are some facts, which the Israelis themselves know and many try to ignore:

— The state of Jordan is not Palestine. The land of the state of Palestine is currently occupied by Israel.

King Hussein is the King of Jordan, and Yasser Arafat is the president of the state of Palestine. The enemy of the Palestinians and the obstacle to peace is not King Hussein, but, rather, the consecutive Israeli governments. The party which can make peace on behalf of the Palestinians is the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and nobody else.

Finally, no thanks to Halter, because no Palestinian asked him to defend the Palestinians in such a twisted and distorted

manner. Moreover, no Jordanian would permit him, let alone ask him, to address King Hussein in the manner he did, or, indeed, condone the idea that Jordan should pay for the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. It should, however, be pointed out that hailing Israel out at the expense of Jordan is neither acceptable nor permissible by the Jordanians as well as the Palestinians.

The protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Jordan will always be a cherished Jordanian responsibility with full Palestinian support and backing. The reshaping of the future of the Arab World is the responsibility of the Arab people alone.

Dr. Kamhawi is a former professor of political science at the University of Jordan and a member of the Royal Commission that drafted Jordan's National Charter. He is now the secretary general of the Defence of Jerusalem.

Stereotyping rampant in U.S.

By Stanley D. Miller
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Most whites in the United States hold fast to negative stereotypes of blacks and Hispanics even while white support for racial equality is gaining ground, a survey found.

Three of four whites believe blacks and Hispanics are more likely than whites to prefer living on welfare, the general social survey by the National Opinion Research Centre found. And most whites think blacks and Hispanics are more likely to be lazy, violence-prone, less intelligent and less patriotic.

Yet the survey also found increased support among whites for racial equality.

White support for school desegregation rose from 14 per cent in 1972, the first year of the survey, to 29 per cent in 1990. White disapproval of laws against interracial marriage rose from 18 per cent to

77 per cent. "With all this change, one might assume there has been equal breakdown of a imagery," said Larry who teaches sociology University of California Angeles and helped design survey questions.

"It's ironic, given the other forms of negativity toward minorities favouring discrimination housing, jobs, education have basically disappeared.

The centre conducted face-to-face interviews with adults nationwide last. The respondents were representative of the population, said survey for Tom W. Smith. The error averaged 3.5 per cent.

The general social survey has been conducted since 1972, but 1990 was the first year it included questions on stereotypes.

Japan's unwanted minorities defy system

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — One day about a decade ago, Han Jong Souk decided enough was enough. He would no longer tolerate being treated as a foreigner in a land where he had lived most of his life.

Han went on to become the first Korean to refuse to be fingerprinted, a requirement in Japan for all criminals and foreigners.

The staunch refusal of the soft-spoken businessman, now 61, soon spread to thousands of other defiant Korean residents.

"We are part of an 80-year history of Japan. Yet there is no existence on earth that is more miserable than the Korean in Japan. We have no rights," Han, who was fined 10,000 yen (about \$75), said in a recent interview.

Han's case eventually made it to the Supreme Court, and was dismissed in 1989 when an amnesty for fingerprint refusals was granted. A year earlier, the law had been changed to require fingerprinting just once, instead of every three to five years.

Now, it may finally be on the way out.

In an effort to improve relations with Seoul, the government may abolish mandatory fingerprinting for ethnic Koreans, by far the largest minority

in Japan. An announcement could come when Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu visits South Korea.

Tadashi Imai, director of the Northeast Asia division in the Foreign Ministry, told reporters Tuesday he was very confident the issue would be resolved during the trip.

During the visit, Seoul also is expected to press Tokyo for fairer treatment of ethnic Koreans, who were brought to Japan as forced labourers and soldiers during Japan's 1910-1945 colonisation of the Korean Peninsula.

Even though about 90 per cent of the 700,000 ethnic Koreans in Japan were born in Japan and many speak perfect Japanese, the vast majority do not enjoy the rights of citizens. Less than 5,000 are naturalised each year.

That is largely because of this isolated nation's obsession with racial homogeneity and a fear that ethnic diversity would upset social order, says Nobuyuki Sato of the Research Action Institute for Koreans in Japan.

"If the idea that Japanese society was composed of different races were allowed, Japan certainly would not have an emperor system," said Sato.

Worship of the emperor is a central tenet of the indigenous Shinto religion and has been a main unifying ideology through-

out Japanese history.

The desire to preserve ethnicity is reflected in Japan's naturalisation process, a far cry from U.S. laws that grant citizenship to everyone born within the United States.

Many Koreans find the citizenship process in Japan degrading and painfully reminiscent of colonial history, which helps explain why only a tiny fraction are naturalised each year.

To win Japanese citizenship, applicants are interviewed for hours and their backgrounds are extensively researched. Often investigators go to the applicants' workplaces and neighbourhoods to evaluate whether they have taken appropriate measures to assimilate into Japanese society.

The candidates may be encouraged to adopt Japanese names. They also will be told to give up membership in any resident Korean organisation.

As one Justice Ministry official put it, naturalisation is "an expression of the individual's desire to become Japanese."

"If an applicant is wearing traditional Korean clothing, we may ask him why. It's one thing to wear ethnic apparel at a wedding or if relatives are making you do it, but something else if he wants to wear it out of ethnic pride," said the official, who

spoke on condition of anonymity.

The closer one is to maintaining a "regular Japanese" lifestyle, the better the chances for citizenship, the official said.

Han described the mentality of Japanese naturalisation as follows: "If you don't want to face discrimination, then why don't you come and join the discriminating side?"

Indeed, discrimination can be so intense that some Koreans choose to pass themselves off as Japanese rather than suffer the social costs of asserting their Korean background.

Kang Sunge, who published a job-referral magazine for Koreans, says on-the-job discrimination is still common, though the labour shortage and pressures on Japan to internationalise are helping.

Of 2,000 corporations he surveyed in September, 500 said they were willing to hire foreigners, up from 314 four years earlier.

Koreans find it particularly difficult to land public jobs. According to the Home Affairs Ministry, there were only 382 public employees of Korean nationality in April 1988.

Relaxation of requirements for foreigners to get public jobs also is expected to be discussed at this week's talks in South Korea.

Journalists flock to Gulf

By John Fullerton
Reuters

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — Desert awful hot, sand everywhere, flies dreadful. No news on this Saddam you mention. Yours, Boot. PS send money.

Evelyn Wang's anti-hero William Boot of the Daily Beast in the journalistic satire "Scoop" would find it tough going to compete with the high-tech equipment to the modern war correspondent in Saudi Arabia.

There are no collapsible flag-sticks or hockey sticks cut into cleft sticks for carrying stories back to base.

Instead reports are packed in day-glo orange plastic canisters flown back from the front line by helicopter.

The modern correspondent has forsaken the solar topee for the camouflage helmet, made of lightweight kevlar to deflect ricochets and shell fragments.

The clacking of portable typewriters has given way to frenetic, silent tapping on laptop computers, plugged into satellite telephones.

War correspondents no longer take days or weeks to reach the battlefield by horse-drawn wagon, camel or donkey.

They simply jet into one of the countless international airports in the Gulf region and speed along four-lane highways to check into luxury hotel

rooms with in-house video suite bathrooms and mini-Huge supermarkets per for nearly every whim of foreigner, from gasmask bagels.

Four-legged transport in front line has been replaced by the helicopter and the American workhorse of battlefield, the high mot purpose wheel vehicle humvee, successor to Willys jeep of World War II.

Boot would have been amazed by the qualifications his assignment — he has to pass a fitness test before being trained in first aid before could join teams covering a

In "Scoop" a case of mistaken identity propelled a reluctant Boot from his general role as part-time scribbler the life of the vole and cres warbler to highly-paid correspondent covering civil war the mythical Ismaeliya.

Saudi Arabia is now host about 500 journalists, photographers and television crewmen. Western officials say number could reach 1,000 the Jan. 15 deadline set by United Nations for an Israeli withdrawal from Kuwait.

One young American journalist captured the "Scoop" spirit as he hurried his head in book on the bus ride to combat troops in the desert.

The title? "How to be a war correspondent."

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Jan. 10, 1991 A

Renovation gives Sphinx new lease on life



The Sphinx has suffered serious decay over the years

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press
GIZA PLATEAU, Egypt — The ailing Sphinx is starting 1991 with a new lease on life. Antiquities officials are thrilled with results of the first year of one of the largest renewal projects in the statue's 4,600-year history.

And they say by the time the restoration project is finished in about two years, the monument will be in its best shape in centuries.

"For the first time we can say to the world we've returned the Sphinx to its youth," said Zahi Hawass, director-general of antiquities for the Giza Pyramids and the Sphinx.

It has been a year that has seen the Sphinx embraced by scaffolding, its right paw dismantled stone by stone and reassembled with new stones, layers of crusted salt removed from its sides and the water table beneath its mammoth body stabilised.

After the current project, officials say, the statue still will have no nose. The original was lost in antiquity.

Artists worked alongside turbaned antiquities workers to sculpt limestone blocks to replace the Sphinx's nose. The statue was carved, and continued over the millennia

(one metre) of cement used in disastrous restoration attempts in the 1980s.

And as the work progressed, a beeping weather station installed atop the Sphinx by the J. Paul Getty Conservation Institute of Marina Del Rey, California, recorded data for the first in-depth look at what's really happening to the statue.

The institute is paying \$200,000 for the weather station, which is monitoring the effects of pollution, weather conditions on the Sphinx for a one-year period, ending in spring 1991.

It has been a year in which pessimistic predictions of doom slowly gave way to optimism that modern technology can indeed prolong the life of the sphinx.

One of the main believers was Sayed Tawfik, chairman of antiquities, who last visited the Sphinx a day before he died in December at age 51.

"I'm so happy with work. It's so beautiful," he said in an interview that week. "We've saved the Sphinx."

The statue of a lion with a pharaoh's head has spent much of the past 46 centuries causing faithful admirers a lot of worry. Repairs began in ancient times, possibly as soon as it was carved, and continued over the millennia

as periodically the Sphinx was dug out of wind-blown Sahara graves of sand.

In the 20th century, succeeding generations have tried to keep the Sphinx looking like the Sphinx. Experts say with each addition, until now, the statue lost much of its original look.

In 1985 antiquities officials began a major project to restore and preserve the Sphinx. It continued until February 1988, when a 2 1-2 tonne boulder fell from the right shoulder of the limestone statue carved from natural rock augmented by layers of hard and soft stones.

The rockfall sent an avalanche of alarm throughout the world of Egyptology.

"You can have a whole temple like Karnak fall and nobody will care," Hawass said. "But let a tiny stone topple from the Sphinx, and the whole world goes crazy."

In Egypt, the rockfall became an emotional national issue. It cost the chairman of antiquities his job, the second chairman in a row to be fired because of a Sphinx rockfall, and caused 10 months of furious debate over who or what caused it.

Tawfik was careful not to repeat the mistakes of those who came before. After the current restoration project

began, he made at least a trip a week to supervise the work.

"Sometimes I make three trips," he said in his last interview. "If I don't come, the Sphinx may sleep. And one day I'll come and it won't be here."

Giza Plateau director Hawass said it is difficult to put a price tag on the restoration project because the antiquities organisation is handling all the work through its own resources, using stones from its own quarry and Egyptian workers.

"We have very few costs outside the organisation," he said. "If foreigners were handling the work, it would be costing at least a million dollars a month. But Egyptians are doing it, and so the costs are surprisingly low."

Hawass said taking care of the Sphinx was important from the earliest times.

"For every king the Sphinx was a symbol of kingship, of his country," Hawass said. "Tutmosis IV, Tutankhamun, Ramses II. They didn't just worship the Sphinx. They wanted to take care of it, to show they cared. It was something they had to do."

And today, he said, "everybody cares what happens to the sphinx. What we're doing now shows how much we in Egypt care also."

Computers at school—the second generation

By Françoise Baroché

PARIS — Five years after the first "Computers for Everyone" (CFE) plan was ceremoniously launched, the French Education Office has decided to replace the 150,000 Thomson micro-computers installed in schools.

After a procedure lasting 18 months, it has selected six manufacturers: the Italian Olivetti, the Dutch Philips and four French companies: Bull, Goupil, Normerel and ADDX, a small firm with a turnover of around fifty million francs.

The whole problem of the French administration was to get away from the first "Computers For Everyone" plan, which had been drawn up by the public Audit Office (Cour des Comptes), the faithful guardian of the state coffers. In a report, it had shown itself to be particularly severe towards this project which it considered as being too expensive (the planned expenditure at the time, 1.8

billion francs, had been exceeded), ill-suited to the needs of the children and teachers, who were inadequately trained.

Indeed, a number of machines had remained in the school cupboards, or were not, or barely used. In 61 per cent of schools, they were not even used for three hours a month per student. The repercussions on French industry could also be contested. Thomson, which had won the major part of the order, withdrew from micro-computers in 1989.

It was thus a matter of not making the same mistakes in 1990, while, at the same time, not splurging out. To begin with, the amount of money at stake is far from that used in the "CFE"-1 operation. In the best of cases, the market is restricted to between 750 million and one billion francs. The French Education Office wanted each machine to cost no more than 5,000 francs and maximum use to be made of the existing software.

Moreover, whereas, in 1985, the purchase had been made by the French Education Office, it was now up to each community to decide if it would order the material chosen by the schools. But they would not be compelled to do this and could even order from a different supplier than those chosen.

Eighteen months ago, computer companies were invited to tender in competition. From the outset, a small French firm, ADDX, studied the file and quickly proposed a machine which would make it possible to keep part of the existing stock.

The French administration, however, was reluctant to give the market to such a small concern, and it changed the procedure, specifying its demands. Computer manufacturers set to work once more and, in June 1990, four of them were selected by an honorary jury: Olivetti, Philips, the German Siemens and ADDX. Bull, who had been busy buying up the American company Zenith,

only entered the ranks in summer. SMT-Goupil and its subsidiary Normerel also joined late.

The administration did not finally accept Siemens' tender, preferring the set of firms mentioned above... to the detriment of ADDX which says it is "surprised" at the place taken by the big French computer-manufacturers.

It remains to be seen whether the material chosen will appeal to the teachers. Quite a few of them have made the effort to learn how to use them. It was thus a matter of not reducing their work to zero.

Some people wonder if it would not have been better to buy micro-computers from the bottom of the range, nearer to family computers, closer to those the children would be using in the future. The problem there, would be to know if these (cheap) machines could survive a class of thirty pupils — L'Actualite En France.



Children use micro-computers in French schools

U.S. endowment approves grants for 2 controversial performers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) awarded \$47 million in grants to 1,200 artists and arts organisations, including two controversial performers who were denied federal funds last year under an anti-obscenity statute.

Grants totaling \$35,000 went to two avant-garde Theatre in New York for production of new works by Karen Finley and Holly Hughes. Their grant applications last year were rejected at the height of a political controversy over alleged NEA support for obscene and blasphemous art.

Endowment Chairman John E. Frohnmayer said he had personally reviewed the new grant requests on behalf

of Ms. Finley and Ms. Hughes. The applications had been approved by two separate review panels and by the National Council on the Arts, the NEA's presidentially appointed advisory body.

"A major thrust of the arts endowment is to encourage innovative art," Frohnmayer said in a statement. He said he was "satisfied that the grants meet the criteria set forth in the guidelines" for supporting works of artistic excellence.

The Finley and Hughes grants were among \$47 million awarded to support a wide variety of arts projects across the country in the 1990-91 fiscal year. They ranged from \$1 mil-

lion grants to New York choreographer Merce Cunningham and the Houston Grand Opera to a \$20,000 writer's fellowship for Rodney Smith of Auburn, Alabama, and \$3,000 for a Mozart festival in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

The NEA awarded \$20,000 to the Kitchen Centre in New York for production of a work by Ms. Finley, in collaboration with composer Jerry Hunt, that will use a talk-show format to explore mental illness.

A \$15,000 grant went to the Downtown Art Co. of New York for a project by Ms. Hughes titled "no trace of the blond," in collaboration with director Ellen Sebastian. The NEA said it

"will draw on ancient non-Western traditions to explore several contemporary issues."

Attention was focused on the two applications because of their controversial stage monologues and musical acts, which usually deal with feminism, racism, homosexual concerns and political issues, sometimes in sexually explicit terms.

Barbara Tsumagari, executive director of the Kitchen theatres, and Cliff Scott, producing director of the Downtown Art Co., expressed gratitude for their grants, which Ms. Tsumagari called "encouraging for the moment."

Joy Silverman, a spokeswoman for the National Campaign for Freedom of

Expression, a non-profit artists' organisation, said it was "terrific that Frohnmayer has finally seen the light" and approved grants for two performers who "deserve national recognition."

In a telephone interview from Los Angeles, however, Ms. Silverman said the obscenity controversy had left the arts community disillusioned with the NEA chairman as an arts advocate. "When things get tough, Frohnmayer will always bow to political pressure and he won't defend the arts," she said.

Conservative lawmakers and religious fundamentalists cited earlier NEA grants to Ms. Finley and Ms. Hughes as evidence of the endow-

ment's willingness to use taxpayers' money to subsidise obscene or anti-religious works.

Last June, acting under anti-obscenity restrictions imposed by Congress at the behest of Sen. Jesse Helms, Frohnmayer rejected grant applications by Ms. Finley and Ms. Hughes and fellow performers John Fleck and Tim Miller of Los Angeles and refused to consider their appeals.

Frohnmayer said then their projects would not "enhance public understanding and appreciation of the arts." The four performers sued the NEA chairman in federal court in Los Angeles, charging that their rights to free expression had been violated.

Deadly Negligence

By E. Yaghi

RECENTLY, a dignified and distinguished professor from the University of Jordan, took his wife for treatment at one of the many hospitals in Amman. As Professor Adnan waited with his wife for their turn to see the doctor, he could smell the aroma of alcohol and medicine. He heard the rustle of nurse's uniforms and spongy sound of their shoes on the smooth marble floor which reflected the neon lights. The hospital seemed to emit an atmosphere of trust and efficiency. Small children passed the time running back and forth and their laughter echoed in the corridors.

Professor Adnan drew out a package of his steady supply of cigarettes and nervously puffed away the allotted waiting time. Finally, a rather cool aide called his wife's name and the professor escorted her into the doctor's office. He was met with respect and concern by the attending physician who subsequently scribbled out the appropriate medication and then graciously waved the professor and his wife out of his office with a reminder of the date of their next consultation.

Relieved that their wait was over, Adnan turned to his wife and said, "look, instead of accompanying me to the hospital pharmacy, why don't you go and make an appointment for your next visit while I get your prescription filled?"

"With a 'Fine, I'll meet you at the pharmacy," his wife took a right turn and he proceeded to purchase her medicine.

He approached the pharmacy window and was met by a snobby pharmacist who was decorated with perfectly manicured hands, the latest hairstyle, a mouthful of gum and a perpetual cup of tea at her fingertips. Even though Adnan had been the first of two or three others behind him, she served the intruders first, which indicated they were friends of hers and deserved special treatment and attention.

The professor was a gentleman so he decided not to make an issue out of an insignificant incident. When his turn came, he met the pharmacist with, "Good morning, could you please fill this prescription for me?" in the politest voice he could muster.

The girl haughtily grabbed the paper from his hand as her gum popped in her mouth and with humming eyes she seemed to peer right through him as though he weren't even there. The professor took out yet another cigarette and began to walk and puff the time away. After taking her time, the pharmacist returned with a huff and an assortment of medicine and said, "that will be JD 30."

He was astonished at the amount of packages she had plopped down in front of him. He was sure that there had been only one medication written on his wife's prescription paper, so he concernedly opened one of the packages and began to read the enclosed dossier which contained the indications, dosage and administration. His eyebrows knitted in anger. His wife had pain in her shoulder, but this medicine was meant for someone with a cough! He addressed the pharmacist with, "wait a minute. This prescription can't be for my wife! She doesn't have a cough. You must have made a mistake!"

The professor had dared to challenge the superior knowledge of the pharmacist, besides, she would have to go back another time and refill his prescription. She appeared very disturbed and rudely puffed, "oh, give me the medicine. Let me see it!"

Adnan knew her attitude grew more helligent because her ignorance was the mother of her impudence. She had exhausted his patience and usual good humour. He clutched the assortment of medicine and said with suppressed rage, "No, I won't give it back to you! You've made a terrible mistake. Are you sure you studied pharmacy? You should have studied history or taken a sewing course instead!"

He watched the girl flinch slightly and suddenly the pharmacist in charge rushed in and demanded, "what's the problem? Here, let me see the medicine!"

Professor Adnan snapped back, "and who are you to see the medicine? What kind of pharmacy are you running?" The wrath in his eyes sent the head pharmacist back to her maze of bottles and she lost herself somewhere of a pharmacy shelf.

By now, a group of patients had crowded around the professor. They inquired about the commotion and what his problem was. When he told them what happened, they said, "oh, no, then we've all been taking the wrong medication. God help us!"

Inflamed even further, he headed for the manager of the hospital, bottles and packages in hand. He entered the manager's office and after he introduced himself, stated, "no offence to Zamia, but you know that this isn't a hospital there. We're in a hospital in Amman and this is the 20th century. Giving a patient the wrong medication is not only dangerous, it can be very lethal. I demand to see the doctor who is responsible for the pharmacist."

The manager, himself a medical doctor, knew the danger of giving incorrect prescriptions and was visibly shaken. He apologised to the professor. Adnan then went to the doctor who supervised the pharmacists and complained to him.

At due length, the professor received the correct medicine and returned home with his wife. Later, he remembered the hadeth "have mercy on those on earth and God will have mercy on you," and thought of the dangerous negligence of the pharmacist.

Surely, any patient who enters a hospital is in need of mercy and patience. The story about Professor Adnan is true. The names have been changed or concealed to protect the innocent as well as the guilty. The negligence of the girl who filled Adnan's prescription is deadly. The professor was cautious enough to check his wife's prescription. What about those who do not check theirs or are unable to read in the first place? If this incident happened in certain other countries, the pharmacist in question would be fired from her job or could even be taken to court and sued. More precautionous should be taken to ensure the safety of all patients. The doctor's name, the patient's name and the name of the medicine must be required by law to be labelled in all medications.

Further, no person should be intimidated by anyone working in a hospital for the patient is the hospital's source of income and is paying precious money to be served with respect.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

I am always ready to learn, but I do not always like to be taught
— Sir Winston Churchill, British Statesman (1871-1965).

To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead
— Bertrand Russell, British philosopher (1872-1970).

The Horrors of Moving

By Maha Addasi

Our work place just moved to a new location and the process was a nightmare, no ifs or buts or may bes about it. It was by no means like on Spaceship Enterprise where Mr. Spock, beamed people along with their possessions to the different location. No sir, there was more to moving than that. As usual I have plenty to complain about. Top priority goes to complaining about the people who came from the company to pack our things. Good grief, they smelled so awful they should have been charged with attempted mass murder. After they all arrived, late of course, the offices looked like a concentration camp.

What is the deal here? Is it part of the packers' job description, "must smell grotesque" or do packing companies make people sign a paper saying that they will never use soap as long as they work for this or any packing company?

Nothing has changed on that front, all packers have a cloud of stench around them. So far there have been no exceptions.

What has changed, however, is the way the packers go about their work.

For example, it used to be that when a packing company came to pack a house or office, they used to take care of packing from the A to Z. This time the arrangements were a teeny weeny bit different because we, the people who were paying the packing company, were the ones who did the packing. We were the people who made sure that delicate items were wrapped carefully with newspapers, we were the ones who numbered the boxes and made notes of the contents of each box. We were the people who labelled some boxes "fragile," in the hopes that whatever breaks it will be in large enough pieces we could glue together instead of the smithereens it would be in if the box was not labelled "handle with care." In short we did everything. Well almost everything. Let me be fair here, I mean come on, the packers did after all provide the boxes. And they did cello tape the boxes we packed very tightly. The packers also "requested" tea a few hundred times every hour.

"Strong with plenty of sugar," they said.

Come to think of it they never said "please," or "if you would kindly." When the packers asked for tea, they wanted tea and that was an order. Then they lit up their cigarettes and the smoke lingered with the stench and within seconds all of us poor souls, who were not immune to the ridiculous odour that was natural to those packers, were ready to suffocate. We did not suffocate though. We had to be wide awake to be able to follow "them" from one office to another, as they went in hand.

Those of us who were so proud of themselves for catching the ashes from the packers' cigarettes mid-air before they glided to the ground were not happy for long. The packers, once they finished their cigarettes, didn't grind them in the ashtrays we provided. No that would have been the obvious thing to do and they wanted to be "je ne sais quoi?" So they all daintily dropped their cigarettes on the carpet we were trying to protect and in unison ground their cigarette stubs with their feet. All "we" could do at that stage was grind our teeth and restrain



each other from clobbering "them." I think that punching the daylight out of them would have been too lenient in this case, as far as "we" were concerned.

They, the packers, finally came to the most difficult part of their endeavours. The packers actually had to carry the boxes those few inches to the elevator and those other few inches from the elevator to the trucks.

The packers were complaining that they were underpaid and that the boxes we packed were too heavy. What audacity. I could just scream.

The things are at the new location now, but no one has had the courage to unpack yet. I'm sure there will be several people starting their sentences nostalgically with "once upon a time." As in, "once upon a time this used to be a chair but now it's a pile of sawdust."

Anyways, I think I've said enough. I have some advice, though. If you are considering moving do it now because rumour has it that the new generation of packers will set up their hammocks at the location you will be moving from and just watch as you load the truck while they sip their super-saturated tea, smoke their cigarettes and get paid.

Another piece of advice is, to invest in a company that specialises in deodorants and then take a contract out on all the packing company's employees. Trust me, you could make a bundle.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 10

8:30 Day By Day

One Big Happy Family

Brian decides to enforce some new rules around the house but Ross proves to be a little rebellious.

9:10 Black Forest Clinic

The Mistake

The hospital receives another patient. A pianist with a broken thumb. Prof. Bregman tries hard to help him restore his shattered musical career.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Intimate Betrayal

Starring: James Brolin, Melody Anderson

Michael and his wife are running a hotel business by the lake. Suddenly a stranger comes to town and Michael disappears. The wife is in for many shocks.

Friday, Jan. 11

8:30 Coach

Hayden and a bunch of friends are about to dine out... when suddenly somebody's dog disappears... and this obviously ruins the whole evening.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Detective In The House

Down And Out

Josh is a famous athlete whose career is going out of style. His manager decides to get rid of him legally and cleverly.

Saturday, Jan. 12

8:30 Good Morning Miss Bliss

Miss Bliss does an old teacher friend a favour. At first she thinks it was a mistake, but it turns out exactly the opposite.

9:00 Encounter

The guest of this week is Palestinian journalist Mr. Daoud Kuttub. The discussion is about the intifada.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Caroline

Starring: Stephanie Zimbalist and Pamela Reed

Caroline is such a faithful and devoted nurse that she puts up with many ordeals to care for a retarded child even against his parents' blessings.

Sunday, Jan. 13

8:30 Mother And Son

Maggie Gets The Milk

Maggie is able to trick both Arthur and the social worker

into providing her with good free meals.

9:10 Sweat Of The Sun, Tears Of The Moon

Bravo, Bread and Circuses
The organiser of this Latin American trip this time delves into some social aspects of life which beget social and political apathy.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

Childhood's End

When an old friend of Ethan's shows up in town with her daughters, Ethan begins to worry about his nephews and her daughter, too.

Monday, Jan. 14

Golden Girls

Stanley is about to get married, Dorothy is pinched by jealousy and tries hard to prevent the marriage.

9:10 The Keepers

Land Of Plenty

Jack is annoyed at the officials' lack of concern and does his best to protect more natural places. But sadly, he fails.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Romer invents a new sophisticated computer, but tries,

later to destroy it because the new invention is very efficient but amoral.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

8:30 Charles In Charge

Jamey and Sara are both candidates and Teddy and Charles are their campaign managers. This is a perfect recipe for trouble.

9:10 Documentary

Life Revolution

Genetic engineering is a crucial science yet controversial. The moral aspect of it is still a big issue today.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Film

Wednesday, Jan. 16

8:30 After Henry

Romantic Complications

After all this time the grandmother gets to meet someone new in her life.

9:10 Our House

Families and Friends

10:00 News in English

10:20 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

When Harvey's victims complete their revenge on him, they get shocked when they realise it was all for nothing.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Jan. 10

1919 — British army takes over administration of Baghdad Railway.

1920 — League of Nations comes into being.

1928 — Leon Trotsky, one of chief architects of Soviet Union, is ordered into exile by Soviet government.

1938 — Japanese troops enter Tsingtao, China.

1942 — Japanese invade Dutch East Indies in World War II.

1969 — Sweden becomes first Western European country to announce it will establish full diplomatic relations with North Vietnam.

1988 — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak warns that Egypt will not stand idle in face of Iranian threats to Arab countries in the Gulf.

1990 — China ends seven months of martial law in Peking.

Friday, Jan. 11

1919 — Romania annexes Transylvania.

1942 — Japanese take Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, in World War II.

1943 — Britain and United States relinquish extraterritorial rights in China.

1945 — Truce is declared in Greek civil war.

1962 — Avalanche buries village in the Peruvian Andes, and 3,000 people are reported killed.

1970 — In Nigeria, 32-month-old secessionist Biafran regime collapses under onslaughts by Nigerian government.

1972 — New state of Bangladesh is recognised by East Germany.

1975 — Soviets launch manned spaceship to rendezvous with space laboratory sent into orbit around the

Earth.

1976 — President Rodriguez Lara of Ecuador is ousted in a coup.

1990 — 250,000 people demonstrate in favour of independence in Lithuanian capital as Mikhail Gorbachev arrives to persuade Lithuanian Communist Party to retract its decision to break with national party.

Saturday, Jan. 12

1945 — German forces retreat in disorder in Battle of the Bulge in Belgium during World War II.

1953 — Yugoslav National Assembly adopts new constitution.

1958 — Soviet Union proposes zone free of nuclear weapons from Arctic circle to Mediterranean.

1964 — Rebellion in Zanzibar, which is declared a republic, and sultan is banished.

1967 — China's army pledges support to Mao Tse-tung during disorders triggered by Chinese Cultural Revolution.

1968 — United States and Cambodia agree on policy to keep Cambodia from becoming embroiled in Vietnam War.

1970 — Breakaway Biafra surrenders, ending 32-month-old Nigerian civil war. Biafra leader General Odumegwu Ojukwu flees with family.

1972 — Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of new state of Bangladesh resigns as president to become prime minister under parliamentary system of government.

1974 — North African nations of Libya and Tunisia announce they have agreed to merge as new republic.

1976 — Coalition cabinet in Thailand collapses with resignation of Prime Minister

Kukrit Pramoj.
1986 — Tamil separatist guerrillas kill seven Sri Lanka army soldiers and wound nine others in ambush in northern province of Sri Lanka.

1988 — Soldiers and Palestinian crowds disrupt United Nations official's attempts to inspect Gaza Strip's crowded refugee camps.

1990 — Romania's interim president, Ion Iliescu, announces the extinction of the Communist Party in that country.

Sunday, Jan. 13

1886 — Lagos becomes separate British colony from Nigeria.

1915 — South African troops occupy Swakopmund in German South-West Africa; earthquake in central Italy kills 30,000 people.

1935 — Saar votes to return to Germany after being administered by France under League of Nations supervision.

1945 — Soviet forces begin offensive in Silesia, Germany, in World War II.

1959 — Belgium grants reforms in Belgian Congo following disturbances.

1963 — Togo's President Sylvanus Olympio is murdered as insurgents take control.

1967 — Military officers in West African Republic of Togo seize power in bloodless coup.

1972 — Group of junior officers overthrows civilian government of Ghana in West Africa.

1986 — State-run radio reports that South Yemen's President Ali Nasser Mohammad has survived assassination attempt and that leaders of abortive coup have been executed.

1987 — Employee of Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is charged with setting New Year's Eve fire that killed 96 people and injured more than 140 others.

1988 — Nationalist China's President Chiang Ching-kuo dies of heart attack at age 71.

1989 — Polish Communist leaders said to be ready to offer legalisation to Solidarity — the banned trade union.

1990 — Salvadorean President Alfredo Cristiani announces the arrest of four officers and four soldiers, with a fifth soldier still at large, in connection with slaying of six Jesuit priests.

Monday, Jan. 14

1809 — England and Spain form alliance against Napoleon Bonaparte.

1858 — Felice Orsini's plot to assassinate Napoleon III is uncovered.

1918 — France's former Premier Joseph Caillaux is arrested for treason.

1942 — Forces under U.S. General Douglas MacArthur resist Japanese attacks on Bataan in Philippines in World War II.

1950 — Mohammad Said forms Iranian government.

1962 — At least 36 Algerian and Europeans are killed in disorders and attacks in Algeria's major cities.

1966 — Indonesia closes its mission at United Nations as it prepares to withdraw from the world organisation.

1988 — Ten Palestinians are detained in Jerusalem in apparent clampdown on Arab activists suspected of inciting resistance to Israeli rule.

1990 — Azerbaijani attacks on Armenians leave at least two dozen dead in Baku, Soviet Union.

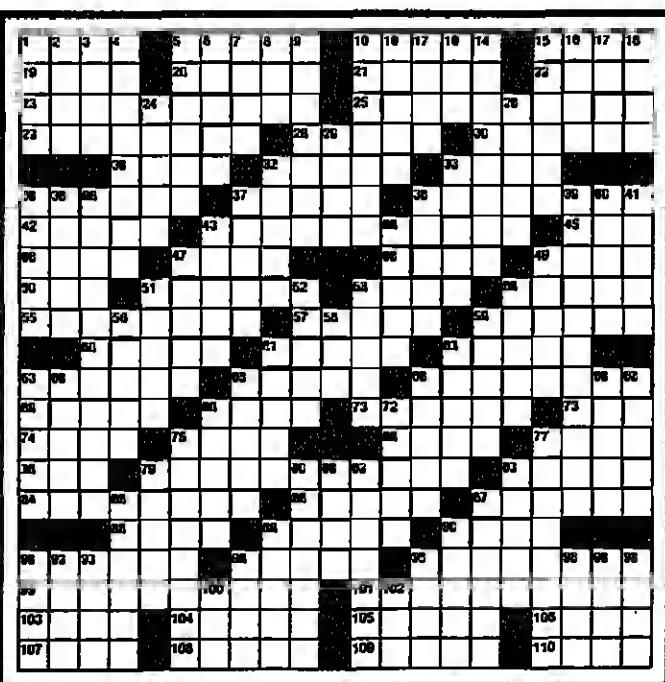
By The Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

BACK AND FORTH

By Harold B. Conant

- ACROSS
- 1 Certain dancer
 - 2 Pottery worker of a kind
 - 3 Logician
 - 4 Annie Oakley
 - 5 "The — Tatoo"
 - 6 Band leader
 - 7 Shaw
 - 8 Sp. money
 - 9 Musical tempo direction
 - 10 — Villain, Fr.
 - 11 — — —
 - 12 — — —
 - 13 — — —
 - 14 — — —
 - 15 — — —
 - 16 — — —
- DOWN
- 1 Shank
 - 2 Easy gait
 - 3 Mountain in Thessaly
 - 4 Comes over
 - 5 Open
 - 6 Forest of —
 - 7 Prison
 - 8 One Ger.
 - 9 Good wishes
 - 10 Arrow-shaped
 - 11 — — —
 - 12 — — —
 - 13 — — —
 - 14 Put out of action
 - 15 Librarian
 - 16 — — —
 - 17 — — —
 - 18 — — —
 - 19 — — —
 - 20 — — —
 - 21 — — —



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Vexatious, life time spent in forced penury may be life's most valuable experience.
2. Burly dad yanked in the welcome mat when teen son's rock band shook the house from its foundation.
3. Levens would not be high enough to hold big floods; have two few sandbags.
4. Tot in Ohio writes letter to his pen pal in Iowa.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YWJF FCQA TJLSW WZWA FWTC
TWYSHLQW VSW PWSBL WJKNH PD LFJA
FSKFW PCD. —By Earl Ireland
2. YLFD CAPUM ELG FASTFLYING MEN
CWUMUMDCN UR MWLFKUSNLFAS
LAWSWLRN "DLFTNN SPACCNW." —By Ed Haddison
3. IEO JOIKMCV: MYEBKZY CPWY CBEFZ
XVGKOV MBEPNOIKAX GKZPE PJZ JIENL JI
FAIQ LIQ JI WYVC. —By Gordon Miller
4. PAULPEN REDOU BTNIX HODOBO'X HLIO
RTHO BAXSOHLPEN S6EV 6LXSTLPEN.
—By Norton Rhoades

Diagramless 11x17, By James Hurrell

- ACROSS
- 1 Rainbow
 - 2 Fountain drink
 - 3 Loved
 - 4 Pie chart
 - 5 North Star
 - 6 Peace
 - 7 Building addition
 - 8 Energy source
 - 9 And
 - 10 High cards
- DOWN
- 1 Graven image
 - 2 Sun
 - 3 Writer Levin
 - 4 Withered
 - 5 Mt. rank
 - 6 Unrefined
 - 7 Moist
 - 8 Golden
 - 9 Delicious
 - 10 Become wide

B.C.



Academy awards could be race between a western and two gangster movies

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Oscar candidates all have appeared, and now the movie world looks forward to a shoot-out between a Western pioneer and two bands of modern-day gangsters for the Academy Awards.

OSCAR PREVIEW

Will Kevin Costner's *Dances With Wolves* be the winner? Many favour the epic of a cavalry officer who is adopted by an Indian tribe. Hollywood admires Costner's courage to fight for his film against heavy odds: Westerns are out of fashion, one-third of the dialogue is subtitled, and the film runs three hours.

However, strong competition comes from *Goodfellas*, which traces the rise and fall of a Brooklyn tough guy involved in organised crime. The Martin Scorsese drama has been scoring with critics' circles awards in

New York and Los Angeles, less so with the ticket-buying public. After 98 days in release, *Goodfellas* has collected a respectable but unsensational \$40 million.

Paramount Picture's Christmas gift to mob fans, *The Godfather Part III*, may also prove a strong contender. A victory as Best Picture would provide an unbreakable record: the first two *Godfathers* won Hollywood's top prize.

But more recent history seems to favour *Dances With Wolves* to win as best picture of 1990. In the past, Academy voters have opted for broadscale movies of courage and adventure, like *Gandhi*, *Chariots Of Fire*, *Out Of Africa*, and *The Last Emperor*.

Money alone doesn't sway the voters. There is little chance for important awards for those movies which earned \$100 million or more this year: *The Hunt For Red October*, *Dick Tracy*, *Ghost*, *Pretty Woman*, *Die Hard 2*, *Total Recall*, *Home Alone*, not to mention *Teenage Mutant*

Ninja Turtles.

The following hopefuls will be called when the Academy Award nominations are announced on Feb. 13 in Beverly Hills. The awards will be presented on March 25 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Here's how the 1990 Oscar race appears to this observer:



Michelle Pfeiffer in a scene from *The Russia House*.

— Best Picture: *Dances With Wolves*, *Goodfellas* and *The Godfather Part III* could be joined by a classic, *Hamlet* or *Cyrano De Bergerac*.

Penny Marshall's *Awakenings* has a strong chance. On a more frivolous note, *Postcards From The Edge* is a possibility. Longshots include *Avallone*, *The Grifters*, *The Sheltering Sky*, *Reversal Of Fortune*.

— Best Actor: Kevin Costner's valiant westerner seems a certain nominee, along with Al Pacino's aging Michael Corleone of *The Godfather Part III*. Robin Williams as the warm-hearted doctor in *Awakenings* and Jeremy Irons' cold-blooded Claus Voo Bulow of *Reversal Of Fortune* also are likely. Robert De Niro could be nominated for either *Goodfellas* or *Awakenings*. Longshots: Danny Glover, *To Sleep With Anger*; Gerard Depardieu, *Cyrano De Bergerac* or *Green Card*; Armin Mueller-Stahl, *Avallone*; *October* or *The Russia House*.

— Best Actress: Two past



Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta and Paul Sorvino in the film *Goodfellas*.

winners figure strongly, Joanne Woodward for *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge* and Anjelica Huston for *The Grifters* or *Witches*. Susan Sarandon also seems likely for *White Palace*. Kathy Bates of *Misery* could be nominated in this category or as supporting actress. Others: Meryl Streep and Shirley Maclaine, *Postcards From The Edge*; Mia Farrow, *Alice*; Julia Roberts, *Pretty Woman*; Michelle Pfeiffer, *The Russia House*.

— Best Supporting Actor: Joe Pesci, *Goodfellas*; Bruce Davison, *Longtime Companion*; Andy Garcia, *The Godfather Part III*; Marlon Brando, *The Freshman*; Graham Greene, *Dances With Wolves*; Hector Elizondo, *Pretty Woman*; Al Pacino, *Dick Tracy*; Alan Arkin, *Edward Scissorhands*.

— Best Supporting Actress: Dianne Wiest, *Edward Scissorhands*; Whoopi Goldberg, *Ghost* or *The Long Walk Home*;

Mary McDonnell, *Dances With Wolves*; Diane Ladd, *Wild At Heart*; Lorraine Bracco, *Goodfellas*; Joan Plowright, *Avallone*. Best Director: Kevin Costner, *Dances With Wolves*; Martin Scorsese, *Goodfellas*; Francis Ford Coppola, *The Godfather Part III*; Penny Marshall, *Awakenings*; Mike Nichols, *Postcards From The Edge*; Barbet Schroeder, *Reversal Of Fortune*; Franco Zeffirelli, *Hamlet*; Peter Weir, *Green Card*.

E.M. Forster comes to the screen — again

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — Gateway To The Continent, read the sign overhead, as Rupert Graves and Helena Bonham Carter disappeared into an Edwardian-era throng of bustles, corseted waists and bowler hats.

"Look at all these extras looking so desperately British," chuckled Jeffrey Taylor, executive producer of *Where Angels Fear To Tread*, the latest E.M. Forster novel to be made into a movie.

The stars and the extras were British, but far from the elegant world of the leisured classes that barely exists anymore outside of Forster's books.

It was the final day of shooting on the \$7.5-million film, due to be released in the United States and Britain next spring. The afternoon's task was the very first scene in which the Herriton family flocks to charring cross station to wave the widowed Lilia off to Italy.

Helen Mirren (*The Mosquito Coast*, *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover*) plays the impetuous Lilia, who marries an Italian, Gino (newcomer Giovanni Guidelli), 12 years her junior, only to die in childbirth.

Ms. Bonham Carter, whose film roles include the acclaimed Forster adaptation *A Room With A View*, plays Lilia's travelling companion, Caroline. Graves, another *Room With A View* alumnus, and Judy Davis, from *A Passage To India*, are Philip and Harriet, Lilia's brother-and sister-in-law.

Two years ago, Taylor and producer Derek Granger had an art house hit with *A Handful Of Dust*, adapted from Evelyn Waugh's highly ironic 1934 novel.

That film's director, Charles Sturridge, and one of its stars, Graves, were hired for the Forster project, an adaptation far from the glossy picture postcard style that some might expect.

"I know that the last thing Charles and I wanted to do was to create some lovely little artifact for export, like a tea caddy or a biscuit tin," said Granger, who also shares the screenplay credit with Tim Sullivan.

Earlier Forster novels-turned-films have come from producer Ismail Merchant and director James Ivory.

A Room With A View won three 1985 Academy Awards and became one of the unex-

pected smash hits of that year. Maurice, the following year, was a more modest success. Next spring, Merchant and Ivory plan to film Forster's masterpiece, *Howards End*, with Anthony Hopkins, Vanessa Redgrave and Ms. Bonham Carter.

Granger said his adaptation could not be more different in tone from the Merchant-Ivory ones. "Angels, according to Granger, is Forster's closest approach to the style of D.H. Lawrence."

"It's got violence and passion and a great deal of comedy," he said. "The audience should have quite a roller coaster ride, one hopes."

A *Room With A View*, he said, "is fundamentally a much more romantic book. It's got a prettier tone; it's more symmetrical. It fulfills that formula of boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl, boy-gets-girl."

This has "a much tougher edge to it," said Taylor. "It's the British at their wonderful worst — stuck up and pompous, when they have no reason to be."

During a break in the filming, Graves pondered whether or not Angels constituted *A Room With A View*, part two.

"It's quite violent in this," said Graves, 27, sporting a moustache and speaking softly in fits of nervous energy.

"You've got dead babies, dead mothers, and a heroine who dies halfway through. It's much sharper, more modern."

After playing Freddy Honeychurch in *Room and Scud*, the amorous gamekeeper, in Maurice, Graves was reluctant at first to do a third Forster.

"I did think, hmmm. I'm not sure if I want to do another because people get obviously — his voice breaks into thickly accented American — typecast, and that can be boring and dangerous."

"But I needed the money," Graves said.

A second later, he turned serious: "No, I didn't take the money. I wanted to do it. It's an intriguing part. There are so many ambiguities."

Graves said he's grown as an actor since his film debut in *Room With A View*. Since then, he's appeared regularly on the London stage — at the National Theatre in John Ford's classic *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* and opposite Vanessa Redgrave in a new play *A Madhouse In Goa*, among others.

Hamlet is a sexy Aussie, not a melancholy Dane

By Daniel Cox
Reuters

NEW YORK — Mel Gibson may not make the most brooding Hamlet, but director Franco Zeffirelli says he must be the sexiest.

The Australian actor, better known on film for firing semi-automatic weapons than Shakespearean soliloquies, has taken on theatre's most daunting role in Zeffirelli's new film version of *Hamlet*.

"It's definitely the way Hamlet should be portrayed — like a man," Zeffirelli said in an interview.

"To bring the movie to the young people, I wanted to find a very steamily, popular actor. And Mel Gibson is dramatically a good introduction to the masses."

The film opened in December in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto, and will begin playing around the United States on Jan. 18.

Zeffirelli admits he thought of Gibson for Hamlet after seeing him as a

renegade cop in *Lethal Weapon*. He says it was all part of a master plan to make Shakespeare's most famous play appeal to more than a few book-worms.

He says he likes to think of the play as an aggressive, fast-paced murder mystery that will grip its audience, regardless of their Shakespearean acumen.

The director uses quick-cuts, startling fight scenes and an aggressive Hamlet — "a man who likes sex, likes to drink, likes riding horses" — to give the film a contemporary feel.

"Unfortunately, all of Shakespeare, especially Hamlet, has been reduced to an exercise in extreme melancholy. It lost all its vitality, all its violence," Zeffirelli said.

The play, which can run as long as five hours, has been cut and reshaped into a lean, cinematic two-and-a-quarter hours. Long speeches have been trimmed or split into different scenes. Characters



Mel Gibson

have been excised, scenes shuffled.

Zeffirelli says the only thing he didn't touch was the dialogue. "Every word in the film is from Shakespeare. That was my religion," he said.

Known for opulent film versions of *Romeo And Juliet* and *The Taming Of*

Shrew — as well as the lavish opera sets and costumes he has designed — Zeffirelli says he opted for a stark, cold look for his Hamlet because the script called for it.

But that didn't stop him from including some racier elements, like an incestuous, emotional kiss between Hamlet and his mother and an alluring seduction by Ophelia of one of the Elsinore guards.

As well as Gibson, Zeffirelli has cast a number of screen stars in supporting roles. Glenn Close plays Hamlet's mother, Gertrude. Helena Bonham-Carter, who captured American hearts in *A Room With A View*, is Ophelia. British actors Alan Bates, Paul Scofield and Ian Holm, all known for their stage work in Shakespeare, are also in the film.

Zeffirelli said Gibson's performance may draw fire from critics who are not accustomed to seeing the actor in a serious role. But he added that Gibson's Hamlet may be better than Laurence Olivier's performance in the 1948 film version, which some regard as the definitive Hamlet film.

"He was too soft, too much like a ballerina," Zeffirelli said of Olivier. "It was a wonderful piece of theatre, but you wouldn't believe for a moment that he was prince



Franco Zeffirelli

of Denmark, the way the story wants it to be."

The 67-year-old Zeffirelli concedes that his version may offend some Shakespearean scholars who opt for the Olivier approach.

"My approach is much closer to Elizabethan theatre," he says. "They had to play for their audiences ... they were full of vitality."

The other Bertolucci — out on his own

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Giuseppe Bertolucci might be forgiven for having a giant-sized chip on his shoulder. It can't be easy being the younger brother of world-famous filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci, especially when you have chosen the same line of work.

To his credit, he appears to bear no rancor, even though the seven movies that he has made during his 21-year career have had nothing like the success of *Last Tango In Paris* or *The Last Emperor*. The younger Bertolucci is in fact the first to acknowledge the debt that he owes his more famous sibling, who is six years his senior.

It was Bernardo who inadvertently launched Giuseppe into the world of film and started him on a path that led to his success as a talented film director. It all began when Bernardo suggested that Giuseppe help direct a movie as a cure for heartbreak — Giuseppe, then 22, was in a deep depression after having been dumped by his girlfriend.

"It was in a very bad way and I agreed to the idea, thinking it would help me take my mind off the girl," recalls Giuseppe, now 43. "But while I was helping Bernardo direct the movie, which was *Strategia Del Rango* (Spider's Strategy), I discovered that I was very strongly attracted by the cinema."

More work with Bernardo followed, this time as assistant scriptwriter for *Novecento* (1990), *La Luna* (The Moon) and *Last Tango*



Giuseppe Bertolucci has found his own style in making movies.

of the Moon. With his long, straggly hair, bulging eyes and a fondness for the earthiest of expletives, Benigni has been described as a foul-mouthed Woody Allen.

As it turned out, Berlinguer, *Ti Voglio Bene* caused a stir but was not a great hit, partly, Bertolucci now admits, because of the strong language. One Italian critic described it as the most obscene movie ever made. What it did do was to bring the younger Bertolucci's name before the public and establish the direction that he would take. Berlinguer, *Ti Voglio Bene* had a strong streak of the absurd that was rarely missing in later years.

Giuseppe Bertolucci's plots are hardly ever conventional. One of his zaniest movies, *I Cammelli* (The Camels), tells the story of a finalist in a TV quiz show who knows everything there is to know about camels. As the final quiz approaches, an unscrupulous manager decides to exploit the contestant's unusual hobby and takes him on a publicity tour dressed as a bedouin, complete with camel, around Italy's Po Valley region. The camel expert, played by Paolo Rossi, fails to win the prize and returns home, disconsolate.

Bertolucci says that the movie is partly an attack on

the effect of television on culture, particularly the mindless brand of Italian commercial TV, which pumps out a diet of quizzes, variety shows and soap operas. The idea, he says, came when he was pondering the theme of solitude. "I can't really say that I myself have any obsession with camels, but *Ferruccio* is a very solitary character, and so are camels — and I also liked the sound of the title very much," he said, as he sipped an espresso coffee on Rome's Via Veneto. Although the film won critical acclaim when it was released in Italy two years ago, it failed at the box office.

"I've never had a huge success with the public, but I seem to have a small, quite between two young women who discover that they are both in love with the same man. With a cast of just three, all of them women, the movie has a simplicity that, says its director, is heavily influenced by the French veteran Eric Rohmer.

Women predominate in Bertolucci's world. *Segreti Segreti* (Secrets Secrets), one of his best-received works, is the story of a female terrorist responsible for two murders, but it is also the story of seven other women and their relationships as mothers, wives, lovers and professionals. Men hardly feature at all in the plot.

Another Bertolucci interest is trains or anything to do with them. His second movie, *Objetti Smarriti* (Lost Objects), is the tale of a woman who loses herself —

literally and metaphorically — in Milan's railroad station, and the scene never shifts from there. *Panni Sporchi* (Dirty Clothes), a TV documentary about homeless people, was shot entirely in before Giuseppe decided to branch out on his own. His first solo movie, *Berlinguer, Ti Voglio Bene* (Berlinguer, I Love You), tells the tragicomic story of the hopes and disappointments of a young Communist in a small Tuscan town who has the added burden of an Oedipus complex.

The movie marked the beginning of a long and successful relationship with Roberto Benigni, now widely acknowledged as Italy's finest comic actor and currently starring in Fellini's most recent movie, *La Voce Della Luna* (Voice of the Moon), and the second half of *I Cammelli* is set in a railway compartment.

The Bertolucci brothers continue to have a close relationship, even if, artistically speaking, they have drifted light-years apart. "Our styles are very different. My movies always have a comic streak, which Bernardo's don't, and I'm very drawn by experimental cinema, whereas Bernardo's movies are always on a grand scale, with big stars and huge budgets," he said. "If you like, it's the difference between the artist who paints miniatures and the one who does vast frescoes."

One of Bertolucci's most recent movies, *Amori In Corso* (Loves In Progress), won Italy's Salsomaggiore Film Festival Prize. The film explores the deep bond formed

having such a famous brother, largely because our father, who is a poet, instilled in us from a very early age that the only important value is creativity. I think both of us have always worked with that in mind, so there was never any real risk of my imitating Bernardo, or being jealous of his success."

Giuseppe Bertolucci's latest project could not be more different from his brother's new movie, released in Paris on Nov. 15. Bernardo's *Te Nel Deserto* (The Sheltering Sky) stars Debra Winger and John Malkovich and, if not an epic on the scale of *The Last Emperor*, is nevertheless an ambitious production with a large cast, moving among locations in the Sahara desert of Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. It tells the story of the journey of an American couple, Paul and Jane Bowles, to North Africa shortly after the end of World War II.

In contrast, Giuseppe Bertolucci's new movie has just two characters, played by Italian actress Ornella Muti and West German actor Bruno Ganz, and is set in the beautiful but unexciting Emilia-Romagna region of Italy, where he himself was born. Called *La Domenica Specialmente* (Specially On Sundays), it forms the final part of a trilogy. The first two sections are being directed by Ricky Tognazzi and Giuseppe Tornatore, who recently won a Hollywood Oscar award for his *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso* (New Paradise Cinema).

— World News Link.

New technique freezes, destroys inoperable tumors

CHICAGO (AP) — A procedure that freezes cancerous tumors by using ultrasound-guided probes offers hope to people who otherwise would be certain to die of liver malignancies, a radiologist has said.

Of 30 patients who underwent the treatment, six are free of disease, said Dr. Gary Onik of Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The technique, called Cryosurgery, has the ability to destroy tumors next to major blood vessels without destroying normal tissues nearby. Onik has reported at the 76th scientific assembly and annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

It offers hope to patients whose cancer is caught before it involves the entire liver, he said, noting that radiation and chemotherapy are ineffective treatments for liver cancer.

"Everybody we worked on by definition couldn't be helped any other way," Onik said.

The patients who are now disease-free after undergoing the procedure have survived an average of 29 months, with the longest survival five years, he said.

Survival for the other patients has averaged 22 months, and two of the patients whose cancer has come back are still alive, he said.

That is considerably longer than the projected survival of six months to nine months after diagnosis among comparable liver cancer patients who don't have Cryosurgery, Onik said.

He and his colleagues also are testing ultrasound-guided Cryosurgery for prostate cancer, and among seven patients who have undergone it so far, no complications have resulted, Onik said.

A cancer specialist lauded Onik's work.

"I think he's making an important contribution," said Dr. Andrew Gage, deputy director of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York.

Not only does Onik's technique offer hope to patients whose lives otherwise probably would be lost, it also pioneers a method in which doctors can watch the effects of surgery as they go, Gage said.

The technique involves making an incision into the patient's abdomen and using ultrasound to find the cancerous lesions in the liver. A surgeon then inserts a probe into a lesion and freezes the lesion with liquid nitrogen.

Gage said conventional surgery still would be the preferred treatment for most liver cancer patients. Cryosurgery might be better for about one person in 50, especially, patients with too many lesions to remove with a scalpel but not so many that they involve the whole liver, he said.

Ultrasound is a radar-like technique in which high frequency sound waves are sent into the body to form an image.

He said his work with ultrasound and Cryosurgery follows success with similar techniques in Japan and China.

AIDS — how far have we got?

By Jean Chabrier

Paris — At the beginning of 1980, the first description of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) exploded like a bomb. What had been known until then was the Congenital Immune Deficiency Syndrome (children in sterile bubbles). Therapeutic I.D.S. (medical depression of the defences by immuno-suppressants to avert the phenomenon of rejection in organ transplants) and, to a lesser degree, a Physiological I.D.S. (a weakening of the immune systems enabling a woman to have fertilised eggs implanted and the development of pregnancy).

But this was quite different. The gradual and irreversible disappearance of the immune defence systems, leading to a state in which the organism was totally unable to react in any way whatsoever against pathogenic aggression, was due to a virus.

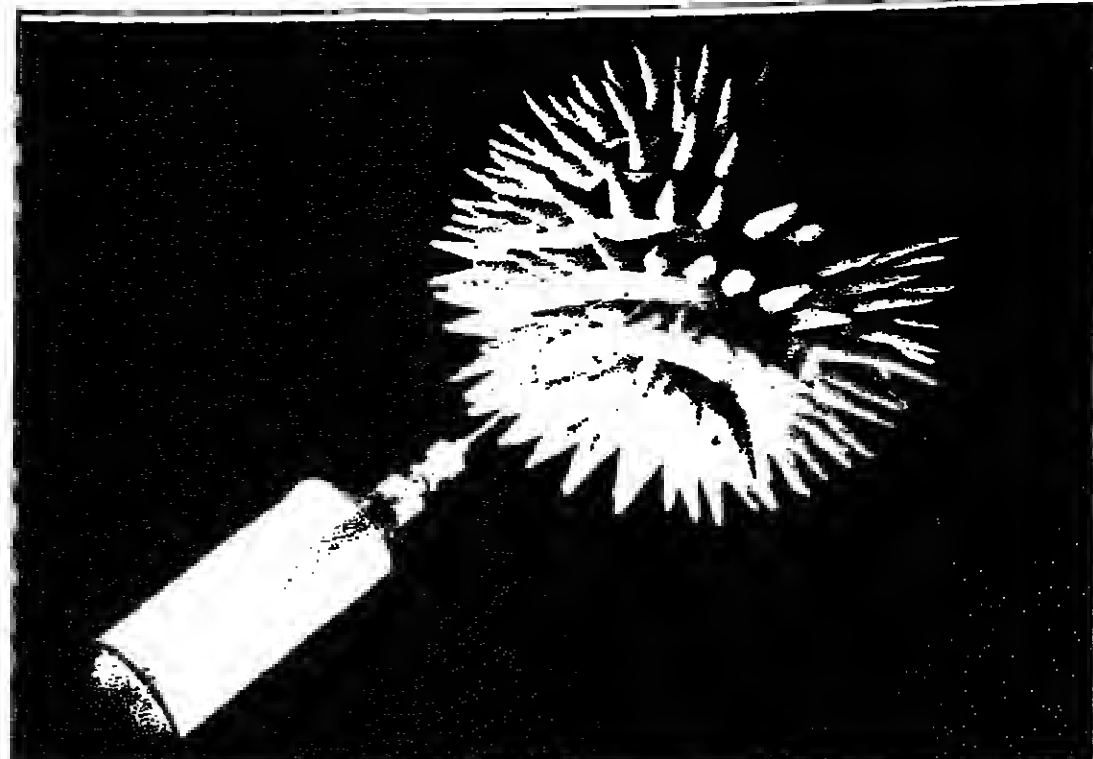
The international scientific community acknowledged professor Luc Montagnier, from the Pasteur Institute, as having discovered, identified and isolated the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in 1983.

According to the official figures (WHO), there are between 5 and 10 million seropositive victims whose total immune system will be destroyed, in a time-limit of 2 to 6 years, resulting in the final phase: AIDS, of which, still according to official figures,

there are 600,000 registered cases. By the end of the decade, these figures are expected to increase nine-fold.

As early as 1983, research got off to a quick start in laboratories all over the world. Today, it is known that the HIV is the most complex virus known. It is also the only virus which itself contains the elements needed for its multiplication and for the transformation of the cells it attacks. Moreover, it only infects the cells of the immune system, the lymphocytes and macrophages, and the stronger their reaction, the faster the infection spreads. Another difficulty is that, like the flu virus, the HIV varies greatly from one strain to another, from one continent to another, from one individual to another, and, sometimes, in a single individual according to the stage of the disease.

DRUGS: From 1985, AZT proved effective by blocking the enzyme indispensable for the replication of the virus. It took a tremendous amount of highly complex technical research to analyse the different phases of replication. A further problem was posed by the toxicity of AZT and the reduction of its effectiveness with time. This led to a mass of research on dozens of substances which all seemed to be extremely promising "in vitro," but proved to be ineffective or too dangerous in clinical trials (though there is a glimmer of hope, particularly with DDI).



AIDS virus — an incredible chemical complexity

Another area of research concerns "decoys." CD4 is a protein making up the walls of lymphocytes, the favourite place for the virus to attack. The idea is to inject soluble CD4 into the blood of the patient (which should foil the virus), combined with an immunoglobulin (which would extend the life-span of the CD4) and possibly with a toxin which would kill the infected cells.

Anti-proteases: Research here is based on inhibiting the protease, which is an

indispensable enzyme for the virus proteins to mature.

VACCINES: As soon as the disease became known, a vaccine was sought both in the United States and naturally at the Pasteur Institute, which has been the cradle of vaccine-therapy for 100 years. Two major problems arose. One is the extreme variability of the virus. The other is that, while the body produces "neutralising" antibodies, as is normal, it also produces "facilitating" antibodies which, on the con-

trary, favour the extension of the disease. However, this does not discourage M. Girard (Pasteur Institute) who created a vaccine from a HIV protein, GP 160, and the V3 part of the virus, which appears to protect experiment chimpanzees. This research has now been taken up at Saint-Antoine Hospital (Prof. Zagury) and at the Salk Foundation in the U.S. where they are using the same process with a de-activated HIV. However, if all the research is being focused

on American and European strains, it is impossible to make predictions on African, Haitian, etc. strains.

Another area of research concerns passive immunotherapy with anti-HIV immunoglobulins, as is done for numerous infectious diseases. The drawback is that protection is limited in time. The most obvious use of this therapy is for the protection of babies in seropositive pregnant women (Salk and Pasteur Ins.).

Another encouraging idea is to give protection against the HIV by another virus from the same non-pathogenic retro-virus family.

This overview just gives a rough idea of the profusion of research being carried out on AIDS. New paths are continually being opened up and one of the latest is that of mycoplasmas, by Prof. Montagnier.

Mycoplasmas are strange more or less saprophytic, parasitic bacteria with "soft" walls, apparently free of any pathogenic power, which mainly live on our mucous membranes and in which there was little interest until now. Prof. Montagnier has noticed that their mere presence increased the "killing" power of the HIV on lymphocytes by acting as a catalyst. His research is looking into whether a simple anti-mycoplasma antibiotic could stop the development of AIDS — L'Actualite en France.

Experimental drug 'reduces' asthma, allergy symptoms

BOSTON — A series of experimental drugs that attack the underlying cause of an allergic reaction may give doctors a new and more powerful weapon in the war on allergies, hay fever and asthma.

In three studies published in the latest edition of the New England Journal of Medicine, teams of researchers say they have discovered that substances in the lungs called Leukotrienes are responsible for sparking the allergic reaction.

When the drugs that interfere with Leukotriene activity were given to patients, allergic symptoms such as wheezing and runny nose were dramatically reduced.

"These and other clinical trials mark the beginning of attempts to place the regulation of the Leukotriene pathway within the realm of clinical medicine," said Dr. Daniel J. Stechschulte of the University of Kansas Medical Centre.

Although none of the drugs are available to con-

sumers, "we can only hope that these successes will lead to better long-term treatment of these common allergic disorders."

In one study, by researchers at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, doctors used asthma sufferers who often experience an attack after exercise. Some were given injections of MK-571, a substance that blocks the effects of Leukotrienes. The rest received a placebo.

After exercise, people who received the drug recovered four times faster than those taking the placebo.

MK-571 is also known as Venazir.

In a second experiment, researchers from a Boston Hospital found that Zileuton helped people who typically develop asthma from breathing cold, dry air.

In the third experiment, also involving Zileuton, doctors from the University of Iowa found that the drug reduced the amount of congestion in most people allergic to ragweed or grass.

Study disputes link between condoms, disease

CHICAGO (AP) — A new study has found no connection between barrier contraceptives such as condoms and an illness in pregnancy that can lead to premature delivery and fetal-growth problems.

The findings of the study were reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association. They contradict the findings of an earlier study that linked an illness suffered by some expectant mothers known as Preeclampsia, or Toxemia, to the use of barrier contraceptives.

"We believe that women should be advised that barrier contraceptives were associated with no increased risk for Preeclampsia," Dr. James L. Mills of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development wrote in the new study.

Mills wrote that women should feel free to use barrier contraceptives without fear of the disease.

Preeclampsia occurs in about 7 per cent of pregnancies. Untreated it can lead to maternal seizures and, in rare cases, can cause death to the fetus or the mother. It is characterised by high blood pressure, fluid retention and protein in the urine.

In a study reported in December 1989, researchers at the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health said women using a barrier contraceptive before deciding to become pregnant were more than twice as likely as other women to develop Preeclampsia.

Both the earlier study and Mills' report said more research is needed to resolve the issue.

Despite cancer risk, older women live longer if they take Estrogen

By Lee Siegel

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Estrogen pills help older women live longer by preventing heart disease, strokes and broken bones — advantages that outweigh the risks of the hormone, a study published Friday said.

"The evidence is quite strong and consistent that overall mortality is reduced among Estrogen users," epidemiologists from the University of Southern California (USC) said in the journal Archives of Internal Medicine.

Previous research found

women are more likely to get breast and uterine cancer if they take Estrogen pills to relieve hot flashes and other menopausal symptoms.

For the average postmenopausal woman, the new findings show "the longer you're on Estrogens, the longer you live," despite the cancer risk, said Dr. Ronald Ross, who co-authored the study.

If the typical older woman doesn't take Estrogen to replace her body's dwindling supply of the sex hormone, "your life is shorter because you get more heart disease" and strokes, said Dr. Brian Henderson, the study's chief author and director of USC's

Kenneth Norris Jr. Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

However, Ross cautioned that for certain women, such as those prone to breast cancer, the risks of using the hormone still might outweigh the benefits.

He said women who take Estrogen should be alert to possible signs of cancer, including breast lumps and unexplained uterine bleeding.

Doctors "need to think about every woman as an individual" in deciding whether to prescribe Estrogen, said Dr. Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, a heart disease expert at the University of California, San Diego. "I do not think

we have enough information to try to sell every postmenopausal woman in the United States on Estrogen replacement."

The study showed Estrogen users live longest when they take the hormone for many years. It also found no difference in death rates among women who take 0.625 milligrammes daily, half the once-common dose of 1.25 milligrammes. The lower dose protects against heart disease while minimising the cancer risk, Ross said.

Ross, Henderson and Annalia Paganini-Hill spent 7½ years studying questionnaires and medical records

from 8,881 older women at a retirement community. Half the women had used Estrogen. At the end of the study, 1,447 women had died.

Women who used Estrogen at any time after menopause had death rates 20 per cent lower than non-users, meaning they lived ½ years longer than non-users, Ross said.

Women who were still taking Estrogen and had done so for at least 15 years had death rates 40 per cent lower than non-users, which translates to 20 years of extra life, he said.

Estrogen replacement therapy started as a way to

decrease menopausal symptoms including hot flashes, vaginal dryness and headaches.

Studies later prompted doctors to prescribe it to prevent heart disease and osteoporosis, the bone-brittleness ailment that makes elderly women prone to fractures. In the 1970s, researchers found that Estrogen increased the risk of cancers of the breast and the endometrium, or lining of the uterus.

The new study dealt only with Estrogen, not the less common Estrogen-Progestin pills.

Chest pain linked to heart attacks after surgery

BOSTON (R) — Patients who don't get enough blood flowing into their hearts soon after an operation face a higher risk of developing a heart attack or other serious heart problems several days following surgery, doctors report.

The finding, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, could help patients avoid fatal heart attacks and other heart problems that develop in people who undergo surgery for conditions unrelated to heart disease.

Medical researchers led by Dr. Dennis Mangano of the University of California at San Francisco said the findings "suggest that patients may warrant more intensive monitoring and intervention" during the period immediately after surgery.

The discovery that a patient's heart isn't getting enough blood, a condition known as Ischemia, "may well hold the key to reducing" the number of heart attack deaths after an operation, they said.

Out of 25 million Americans who have surgery each year for problems other than heart disease, three million are candidates for a heart attack. About 50,000 actually

have an attack within days of their operation.

"More than half the 40,000 deaths after surgery are caused by cardiac events," said the doctors.

The new study was an effort to find a way to predict which people face the highest risk for developing those after-surgery heart attacks.

The doctors tested and continuously monitored 474 men scheduled to have non-emergency, non-heart surgery at the Veterans Affairs Medical Centre in San Francisco. All were believed to be suffering from heart disease.

Eighty-three of the patients developed some form of heart problem, usually more than three days after their operation.

Five of the 83 men died of a heart attack, and one had a fatal case of heart failure. Another seven had non-fatal heart attacks, two had periodic chest pain, 30 developed congestive heart failure and 38 began abnormally fast heartbeats.

When the researchers looked at what had happened to the patients before their heart problems developed, they discovered that virtually all had developed Ischemia.

Genetic engineering produces clotting protein for hemophilia victims

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Hemophilia victims, many already unwittingly infected with AIDS, should be spared from other blood-borne viruses by highly purified clotting proteins made through genetic engineering, new research suggests.

The first large-scale testing of this gene-spliced substance, called Recombinant Factor VIII, shows that it works just as well as the natural variety of Factor VIII derived from human blood plasma.

The development could allow hemophiliacs to routinely take preventative doses, as diabetics take insulin, one specialist says. "It's a tremendous advance and one we are all excited about for the hemophiliac community," said Dr. Jeanne M. Lusher, who tested the new clotting material at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

Hemophilia is caused by a genetic defect that is passed from mothers to sons and affects about 20,000 American men. Victims fail to pro-

duce enough Factor VIII, a protein necessary for the body to form clots to stop bleeding. Without treatment, cuts may bleed for days, and bleeding into the joints can cause crippling deformities.

Injections of Factor VIII derived from donated blood can control bleeding. But early in the AIDS epidemic, Factor VIII was widely tainted with HIV, the AIDS virus, though no one knew it at the time. As a result, about 60 per cent of hemophiliacs are infected with HIV, even though most do not have AIDS.

New purification techniques have made Factor VIII free of HIV, but some specialists worry that some new microbe might silently infiltrate this treatment again if blood remains the sole source.

Now, two companies are competing to introduce Factor VIII made by inserting a human gene into animal tissue that churns out the protein in large quantities. Since they involve no blood, the products should not contain viruses or potentially harmful human proteins that can slip through purification pro-

cesses. "There is an inherent risk with using any human plasma-derived blood product," said Lusher. "The main advantage is that since these products are not derived in any way from human blood, there is no risk of transmitting human blood-borne viruses."

Last year, Baxter Healthcare of Deerfield, Ill., reported on preliminary use of its variety of recombinant Factor VIII on two patients. In the latest issue of New England Journal of Medicine, Berkeley, California-based Cutter Biological described results of testing its competing product on 107 hemophiliacs. Both forms of Factor VIII are being considered for approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"The result were excellent," said Cutter's Dr. Richard S. Schwartz. "We could demonstrate that biologically, Recombinant Factor VIII behaves similarly to plasma-derived Factor VIII."

Most of the patients in the study have been using the genetically engineered Factor VIII for nearly two years.

The treatment effectively controlled their bleeding and caused no unwanted side effects.

Besides being safe, the recombinant products also should help assure a steady supply. Two years ago, hemophiliacs experienced a shortage of Factor VIII after a mix up in HIV screening at the American Red Cross, a primary producer, forced it to withhold about 7 per cent of the nation's total production.

Alan Brownstein, executive director of the National Hemophilia Foundation, said that absolutely safe Factor VIII could allow hemophiliacs to take regular preventative doses of Factor VIII, just as diabetics take insulin.

"It offers the potential for people with hemophilia to have an interim cure," said Brownstein. "The reason why people with hemophilia do not treat themselves as diabetics do preventively is because we are still talking about a human-source product. If we find a product around which there is zero question, then people could basically be rid of the potential of bleeding episodes."

Badran

(Continued from page 1)

Arab territories into Jordanian territory, the prime minister replied: "We will not allow that even if we have to use arms. We will not allow (the Israelis) to empty the West Bank of its people."

Asked to comment on news reports of massive Israeli military deployment along the ceasefire lines with Jordan, Badran said that he believed there were preparations on the other side but no massive build-up of troops.

News reports, neither confirmed nor denied by Jordanian officials, here talked about deployment of most of Jordan's armed forces on the central and southern front with Israel. Military analysts recently quoted in the British press said that Jordan, fearing an Israeli thrust through the south of the country towards Iraq, is sending a signal that it would immediately retaliate.

Israel has said that it had no hostile intentions against Jordan but did not rule out using Jordanian territory or airspace to launch an attack on Iraq. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, however, vowed that in case his country was attacked by the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf, Israel would be the first target for its retaliation.

The prime minister denied that a state of emergency has been declared at Jordanian hospitals. But the Higher Council of Defence "has taken a decision to increase the state of preparedness after Jan. 15," he said.

During the exchange with the prime minister, a number of deputies put forward some proposals to deal with the Gulf crisis. These included condemnation of U.S. arrogance, appealing to the U.S. Congress to respond to peace calls, issuing a call to the Arab peoples to form a united front on the side of Iraq and staging a one-hour strike on Jan. 15 to protest U.N. Security Council measures against Iraq.

Deputy Abdul Menem Abu Zant, the only Brotherhood deputy to speak during the lively debate, called on the government and people to immediately apply Islamic Sharia law "if they sought victory from God."

Border

(Continued from page 1)

allow the use of Saudi airspace for a flight carrying Vietnamese evacuees from Amman to Hanoi and a decision by the International Organisation for Migration, (IOM), which has been arranging the passage home for evacuees, to leave Jordan (see page 3).

"Two planes carrying evacuees were allowed to use Saudi airspace but a third one was turned back," the prime minister told the Lower House of Parliament in a regular session. "The U.N. staff (IOM) have declared that they are leaving Jordan today," he said.

"Saudi Arabia is closing its airspace and the Egyptians would also do so on Jan. 13," Badran said. "As a result, the evacuees will have to stay in Jordan. And with no U.N. organisation and no evacuation flights, we have to accommodate and feed the people, and we are unable to do so," he explained.

In light of these developments, "we have asked Iraq not to allow any evacuees into Jordan as of today," he said.

It is estimated that about two million foreigners remain in Iraq and Kuwait. With the borders of Iran and Turkey remaining closed, and with the international air blockade on Iraq, the only outward route for them had been through Jordan. Both Iran and Turkey have demanded international contributions and help in advance, prior to opening their borders for the evacuees.

Iran, which allowed in less than 1,000 foreigners across its border with Iraq during August and September, has said that it would need between \$40 million and \$50 million to help it cope with any massive influx of evacuees.

Turkey, which permitted about 70,000 refugees to use its territory during September and October, said Wednesday it was preparing for a wave of evacuees across its border.

Mitterrand

(Continued from page 1)

Cameron was unable to say whether Aziz had made his offer before or since a new proposal from the EC to talk to Aziz in Algiers.

Cameron said Aziz had told Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber he was available immediately.

Earlier on Wednesday Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said the EC had made another offer to meet Aziz in the next few days, probably in Algiers.

Iraq has twice rejected previous EC offers to talks in Luxembourg, instead suggesting a meeting in Baghdad.

Mitterrand also said that war in the Gulf could be averted if Iraq announced before next week's deadline that it had begun withdrawal from Kuwait.

Mitterrand, at a news conference coinciding with the evening session of the U.S.-Iraqi talks in Geneva, said war was "practically certain" if Iraq remained intransigent until Tuesday's deadline to withdraw from Kuwait or face military action.

While stressing that France sought a total, prompt Iraqi withdrawal, Mitterrand said an Iraqi promise to pull out could suffice to avoid the start of war.

He said it was possible that U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, backed by unspecified Arab countries, could oversee the withdrawal process.

"Could one judge it sufficient to avoid starting an armed conflict... if the start of a withdrawal was announced, executed, programmed and controlled (before Jan. 15)?" Mitterrand asked. He then said U.S. President George Bush, to whom he spoke by telephone shortly before the news conference, had mentioned a proposal which allowed him to think such an outcome was possible.

Mitterrand, responding to speculation that he might go to Baghdad, said he would not rule out such a visit if he deemed the conditions were right "but such is not my feeling at the moment."

A French expert on Arab affairs and emissary of Mitterrand meanwhile, left Paris for Geneva Wednesday on a mission related to the U.S.-Iraq talks.

It was not clear what Edgard Pisani, president of the Institute of the Arab World, was to undertake in Geneva.

Associates of Pisani would not comment publicly on the visit, but one said, "he has had many

contacts for the past several months, especially in the past days of the Gulf crisis."

The associate, who would not be further identified, would not describe the contacts Pisani had or what his mission in Geneva was.

Mitterrand said at the press conference that if Iraq refused to begin the withdrawal process before the U.N. deadline, Paris would convene an extraordinary session of parliament on Jan. 17, presumably to consider French participation in a war.

In the event of fighting, France "will fulfill its duty," said Mitterrand, who has sent 10,000 troops to Saudi Arabia.

Mitterrand said France and the United States were in accord on the need for Iraq to announce before Jan. 15 that it would withdraw completely from Kuwait.

But the president acknowledged France's differences with the United States over the desirability of an international conference that would deal with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Iraq favours such a conference, as does France, while the United States says agreement now on such a meeting would be tantamount to rewarding Iraq.

Mitterrand said France was ready to press ahead with peace initiatives up to the deadline. But he ruled out sending a high-level emissary, such as Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, to Baghdad.

Earlier Wednesday, Dumas said France was prepared to pursue an all-out quest for peace in the Gulf "until the last minute" before the deadline.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl discussed the Gulf crisis in separate telephone conversations with Mitterrand and Turkish President Turgut Ozal Wednesday, Kohl's spokesman said.

Spokesman Dieter Vogel told a news conference the three leaders had agreed that everything possible must be done to resolve the crisis peacefully.

"They also agreed that the United Nations resolutions must be fully adhered to," Vogel said. Bonn has expressed full support for Washington's handling of the crisis, but has not sent any troops to the Gulf region because of a constitutional provision barring the despatch of its soldiers outside the NATO area.

Germany this week sent 18 fighter aircraft to Turkey, the only NATO member state bordering Iraq.

6-day week

(Continued from page 1)

public responded favourably. Now that the arrangements have served their purpose, there is a good chance for returning to the previous programme of six working days a week, he said.

Taher noted that employees and the public in general had contributed towards the success of the trial period which allowed the government sufficient time to boost its oil reserves. The minister said that measures introduced to save fuel consumption in other areas would remain the same.

He said that the government employees were required to exert all their efforts to provide public services and increase production in the face of any eventuality and emergency in the region.

On Oct. 6 the government decided not only that government offices will have a two-day weekend, on Thursdays and Fri-

days, but also introduced measures limiting the working hours of restaurants, shops, stores and other businesses. Stores now close at 8:30 p.m. while restaurants and pharmacies can stay open longer.

"The government took the decision to return to the six-day working week after carefully studying all financial, economic and social situation resulting from the change in office hours, and found that it would be more beneficial to the country and the national interest to return to the previous arrangement," the minister pointed out.

Referring to the savings of fuel and oil, the minister said that the last quarter of 1990 had witnessed a clear decline in the consumption of oil and its various products which helped boost the Kingdom's oil reserves.

"The savings came as a result of the government measures to ration oil consumption on the one hand and the public's favourable response and awareness under the present economic situation on the other," the minister pointed out.

He said that fuel saving by having Thursdays off accounted for a very meagre margin compared to the total savings of fuel over the past three months.

In electricity, Taher said, a total of 5,940 tonnes of fuel was saved on a monthly basis estimated to be worth \$772,000, which means a total of nearly \$3 million over the past months.

He said that the rationing programme adopted by the government with regard to fighting government offices during the day, banning the use of air-conditioning systems and reducing street lights to a half as well as closing stores and restaurants at fixed hours at night and saved the country nearly \$1.1 million.

Taher said the gasoline sales for vehicles also dropped following August 1990. He said that in September gas stations sold 3,760 tonnes less gasoline than in August, saving some \$1.135 million in the process.

He said that in October sales of oil products dropped by 5,718 tonnes, worth JD 1,726,830, and in November 1,600 tonnes worth JD 482,900.

"Total gasoline sales in August and November dropped by around 11,000 tonnes, worth nearly JD 3.3 million, which means the country has saved some JD 5 million in fuel oil and gasoline over the past three months," the minister added.

Taher urged members of the public to continue rationing but consumption to safeguard national interest.

Settlers

(Continued from page 1)

Soviet Jews, or nearly two per cent of the new arrivals, have settled in the occupied territories.

Haaretz said about 1,200 Soviets have moved to Ariel, a settlement of 8,500 in the central West Bank. Hundreds of Soviet Jews also live in Kiryat Arba and Maale Adumim, two other large West Bank settlements, the newspaper said.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said Tuesday there is an "open door" for Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict with Moscow, according to the head of the World Jewish Congress.

Edgar Bronfman met with Gorbachev for nearly an hour Tuesday. He said the Soviet leader also sought to assure the

United States that there will be no change in Soviet foreign policy despite the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Kremlin meeting centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Bronfman said.

Gorbachev said there was an "open door for Shamir" to discuss with the Soviets all problems relating to the conflict, according to Bronfman.

He interpreted Gorbachev's as meaning the Israeli premier would be able to hold a direct dialogue with the Soviet leader. Bronfman aide Elan Steinberg said Bronfman would convey the substance of the Kremlin meeting to Israeli officials.

Bronfman, the first president of the World Jewish Congress to meet with a Kremlin leader, said Gorbachev told him that Soviet reforms "cannot go backwards."

The reforms have resulted in the wave of Soviet Jews moving to Israel.

Khamenei

(Continued from page 1)

Islamic movement," Khamenei said.

The speech came as an Iraqi delegation led by Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the revolutionary Command Council, held its second day of talks in Tehran.

Ibrahim is the highest ranking Iraqi official to visit Iran since the Gulf war that ended with a 1988 cease-fire.

He is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Sa'doun Hamadi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Sahaf, Minister of Transportation Mohammad Hamzi, and a number of other officials.

The Iranian Foreign Minister said Tuesday Iran and Iraq had agreed to pull back their remaining forces to create a two-kilometre-wide buffer zone along the 1,200-kilometre border by noon Wednesday (930 GMT).

Iranian officials and representatives of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG) were not available on Wednesday to confirm that the withdrawal had been completed.

Before the scheduled pull-back, the pro-government Tehran Times said President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was likely to press for an Iraqi pull-out from Kuwait when he met Ibrahim.

"Political observers maintain that Rafsanjani will certainly remind Ibrahim of dangers of another war in the region which would not be in the interest of Muslims," the English-language paper said.

"Iran will not tolerate any geographical changes because it would be the beginning of a new period of instability," it said, referring to Iranian opposition to giving Iraq control of two islands, which have been mentioned as key parts of any compromise plan to persuade Iraq to leave Kuwait without war.

Iran's first priority was to prevent the outbreak of a war over Kuwait, the paper said, but if military clashes did take place, Western forces should refrain from attacking Muslim holy shrines in Iraq.

Iran made a point of not bombarding the four holy towns of Najaf, Karbala, Samarra and Qadhamain during its so-called "war of the cities" with Iraq.

Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Israel

The foreign minister spoke of

"supervision" of Iraq's arsenal of weapons, and an Israeli diplomatic source said a system of "buffer zones" was envisaged.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday threatened to change sides if Israel entered a war against Iraq, according to accounts by Egypt's three major state-owned newspapers.

The president speaking to reporters, leading writers, newspaper editors, and other prominent intellectuals at the opening of Cairo's annual international book fair.

Asked by a writer and political analyst what if Israel entered a war against Iraq in response to an Iraqi missile attack on it, Mubarak said:

"We do not agree to any Israeli intervention under any circumstances. We will immediately change our position to the opposite because we will never permit that."

"I do not believe that Israel will be involved so that it does not become a U.S.-Israeli operation," he was quoted by the Al Akhbar as saying.

He said he "absolutely sees no room for Israel. But it would be a problem if it happened."

Another daily, Al Gomhouriya, quoted Mubarak as saying that he "excludes" the possibility because Israel would not be permitted to enter a war against Iraq, "even if an Iraqi missile was directed to it."

Geneva

(Continued from page 1)

"But we had grave or big differences about the issues," he said.

Aziz did not mention the word Kuwait during his 45-minute news conference.

He accused Washington of applying double standards in the Middle East, tolerating Israel's occupation of Arab land but being harsh on Iraq.

"When it comes to the Arabs you raise the stick. We are fed up with the policy of double standards," he said.

Aziz said Iraq was willing to eliminate its nuclear and chemical weapons if Israel did the same.

"Iraq is ready to join an agreement to eliminate all mass-destruction weapons in the whole region, including nuclear weapons, biological weapons and chemical weapons," he said.

"Israel also has these weapons and no one has demanded that it get rid of its arsenal," he said.

Aziz advocated an Arab solution, but Baker "strongly refused that path," insisting that if the Gulf crisis was one for the international community to resolve.

"Aziz said he told Baker that Iraq would 'like to have genuine constructive dialogue between our two nations in order to make peace in the region and between our two nations'."

Aziz rejected charges by Baker in his news conference that Iraq had made a series of miscalculations ever since it invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

"I made clear to him that we have not made miscalculations. We are very well aware of the situation... we know all the facts about the situation," he said.

Aziz said the Gulf crisis had to be tackled together with all other Middle East questions including the Israeli-Palestinian dispute — a linkage firmly rejected by Washington.

"If you are ready to bring about peace to the region (as a whole)... we are ready to cooperate," he said.

"I explained to him that the Palestinian question is a matter of national security to Iraq."

"If the Palestinian question is not resolved, we do not feel secure in our country," he added, mentioning an Israeli air raid in 1981 on a nuclear reactor near Baghdad.

Aziz said Iraq would be willing to accept an 11th-hour peace mission to Baghdad by U.N. Secretary General

Javier Perez de Cuellar, an idea also mentioned by Baker and Bush as a possible last resort.

Explaining why he had refused to accept from Baker a letter from Bush addressed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Aziz said it was not couched in the respectful language that should be used between heads of state.

"When a head of state writes to another head of state a letter, and if he really intends to reach peace... he should use polite language," he said.

"We are a proud nation. We shall not accept to be treated as a nation of underdogs. We would like to be treated in a dignified and just manner."

Asked under what circumstances Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait, Aziz said: "I'm not going to answer hypotheses."

"If the United States is ready to address all the issues in the region on the same principles, the same criteria, Iraq will do its contribution in a sincere and serious manner," he added.

"I didn't find anything new in what Mr. Baker said," Aziz said. "We are prepared for all expectations. If they attack Iraq, we will not be surprised," Aziz said. "Iraq will defend itself in a very bold manner."

Aziz insisted that Baghdad will not attack the U.S. allies, more than a half-million of whom are massed in the Gulf against a like number of Iraqi soldiers.

"Iraq is not going to attack any party before it is attacked," he said.

Bush said Iraq gave the United States a "total stiff arm" in Geneva and that it is up to Iraq to decide whether there will be peace or war.

"I have not given up on a peaceful outcome," Bush told reporters. "I'm not too late. But now as it's been before, the choice of peace or war is really Saddam Hussein's to make."

"Baker could report no progress at all," Bush said.

He said "the only bright spot" he saw from the meeting is that Aziz "sees now and I hope he will report back to the president, that the United States is prepared to do its part," to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

Bush had described the talks as a final chance for Iraq to choose between peace and war.

Bush said he had not given up hope for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and called for a strong signal from Congress to demonstrate U.S. resolve against Iraq.

Baker was due to travel to frontline Gulf cities, including Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria, in the next four days and was expected to focus on planning the political ramifications of a war against Iraq.

Baker ruled out a return to the U.N. Security Council to discuss the Jan. 15 deadline again.

He said the meeting finally broke up because both ministers had run out of things to say. "He said everything he came to say and I said everything I came to say," he added.

Baker said the United States would order Iraq to reduce and downgrade its diplomatic presence in the United States on Jan. 12, but would allow a small contingent to remain.

Baker seemed in sombre mood. He did not issue any specific threats at the news conference, and said he had not "pounded the table" in the Aziz meeting.

"We still have six days. I just hope they will think about this meeting," Baker said.

Perez de Cuellar is ready to launch an 11th-hour peace mission to Baghdad before the Jan. 15 deadline, U.N. officials said.

"The secretary-general has indicated many times that he is ready to go to Baghdad if it is necessary," said N. spokesman Francois Giulliani.

"He is considering the possibility of such a trip, but no decision has been taken and certainly none will be taken before we know the outcome of the Geneva meeting, he said while the talks were still on."

Baker said in Geneva that "perhaps there might be a way that the secretary-general of the United Nations can use his good offices here in the remaining six or so days that we have left."

Giulliani had no immediate response to Baker's comment, but he has said previously that Perez de

Cuellar could be off in a matter of hours.

Bush asked Congress Tuesday to pass a resolution authorising the use of force in the Gulf. The president summoned supporters to the White House Wednesday to discuss the resolutions that the House and Senate will debate later in the week.

Before the Geneva talks broke up, Bush issued an order enabling him to put the U.S. economy on a footing, renewing the authority of the armed forces to have first call on food, energy, transport, construction materials and other resources.

U.S. defence officials said Defence Secretary Richard Cheney might seek to activate up to 600,000 troops in the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf.

Bush's action gives the secretary of agriculture authority to place orders for prompt delivery of a food resources; the secretary of energy authority over energy; the secretary of transportation authority over all forms of civil transportation; and the secretary of commerce authority over the articles and materials, including construction materials.

Bush said the authority will not be used until Cheney determines prompt delivery of the materials "for the exclusive use of the armed forces of the United States is in the interest of national security," and until Energy Secretary James D. Watkins makes a similar determination about materials for the atomic energy programme.

Muslim

(Continued from page 1)

portrayed Saddam as the spear carrier of Islam pitted against Western imperialism and corrupt Arabs.

"The Islamic awakening reached its zenith when Saddam resorted to Allah and began to address the infidel with words of Allah," Tamimi said of Iraq's August takeover of Kuwait.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestinian National Council, said Islam "forbade capitulation and surrender to humiliation."

Outside the U.S. and British missions, members of Iraqi professional associations or lawyers and political scientists chanted "U.S. army go home" in English and "We love Saddam" in Arabic.

"We want a permanent justice peace in the Middle East and that is impossible unless the Palestinian problem, the fundamental problem, is resolved," said Shafiq Al Samarrani, dean of the political science college of Baghdad.

In Mecca, meanwhile, pro-Saudi Muslim scholars began a three-day conference to discuss the Gulf crisis and a Saudi Arabian religious authority called in Iraqi soldiers to disobey the government's orders.

Sheik Abdul Aziz Ben Baz told members of the Islamic Popular Conference that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was against the teachings of Islam.

"The Iraqi army should disobey Saddam's orders because they are against Islam," Ben Baz said.

More than 80 scholars from various countries including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Sudan, Turkey, Jordan, Nigeria, Lebanon and Australia are participating in the conference.

"We have assembled here to support righteousness and highlight the evil consequences of Saddam's acts and bad intentions," Ben Baz said.

The Islamic Popular Conference was set up in 1982 to give backing to Iraq in its war against Iran. As some of its members were meeting in Baghdad, others came to Saudi Arabia.

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Top seeds tumble from New South Wales Tennis Open

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Jonas Svensson and Andrei Cherkasov joined the long list of seeds to tumble out of the New South Wales Open Tennis tournament Wednesday.

By the end of the day's play only two men's seeds were left in the event, third seed Guy Forget of France and sixth seeded American Aaron Krickstein.

Sweden's Svensson, the tournament's second seed, was convincingly defeated by his long-time friend Magnus Gustafsson 3-6, 4-6 in their first round match, which was started Tuesday. Gustafsson broke Svensson's serve 10 times in the match.

Later in the day seventh seed Cherkasov, from the Soviet Union, was easily defeated by Argentina's Martin Jaite 6-4, 6-1.

Number one seed Ivan Lendl departed the tournament Tuesday after forfeiting his first round match against Australian Wally Masur.

Lendl withdrew suffering from a stomach injury, but said he believed he would recover in time to defend his title at next week's Australian Open in Melbourne.

In contrast, the event's seeded women players fared a lot better with the top three making it through to the third round. There are still 12 women seeds left in the event.

Number one seed American Mary-Joe Fernandez made a tentative but promising return to competitive tennis after surgery, to dismiss Canada's Patricia Hy 6-4, 6-1.

The world's number four ranked player underwent surgery in December to remove a wart on the inside of her right

hand, which was affecting her grip. Fernandez had not played a tournament since November.

"I didn't play a pre-tournament last year and I felt that although I did well at the (Australian) Open my first few matches were a little bit shanky," said Fernandez, runner-up at last year's open.

Fernandez said her match against Hy, in which she took the first set by breaking the Canadian's serve at 5-4, was tough as she is still not match fit.

"But as each match goes by I feel I will be in better shape," she said.

Second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario used her powerful baseline game and an aggressive serve to defeat France's Alexia Dechaume 6-3, 6-1.

Fourth-seeded American Zina Garrison also had an easy win, displaying penetrating precision to account for fellow-American Kathy Rinaldi 6-1, 6-3.

The world's 10th-ranked player consistently played the ball only centimetres inside the court with powerful forehand and backhand strokes. Although Rinaldi tried to match her, the young American made a number of unforced errors, double faulting five times.

In other women's play, Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, the 11th seed, beat Anne Minter of Australia, 6-0, 6-2. Rosalyn Fairbank Nideffer, the 13th seed from the United States, defeated Nathalie Herremann of France 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 and Carrie Cunningham of the U.S. downed 10th-seeded Laura Gildemeister of Peru 6-1, 6-1.

Sanchez Vicario, the former French Open champion, used her trademark hard serve and

fluent groundstrokes to overcome Dechaume.

"I played really well considering it was my first time in this tournament," Sanchez Vicario said.

The Spaniard said she is becoming more comfortable on surfaces other than clay, including the rebound ace that is being used at this tournament and at next week's Australian Open at Melbourne.

"Three years ago when I started out I really only felt comfortable on clay, not on hardcourts like this one," she said. "That's changing and I am working on my game to improve on every surface."

Meanwhile leading tennis players Boris Becker and Pat Cash called Wednesday for an end to tennis matches played in the extreme heat of the Australian summer.

Former Wimbledon champion Cash said he did not want to see a player die before the rules were changed.

"If it's going to be dangerous to people then I think there should be a temperature where (matches) should stop," Cash said.

"I don't really know how, but I think we're going to have to get medical people to say that it's dangerous at a certain degree."

Three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker agreed.

"During the hottest part of the day, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., maybe when it's over 35-40 degrees (Celsius) (95-104 degrees Fahrenheit) there shouldn't be any games held," the German said.

A number of players have complained about the extreme

heat generated by the synthetic rebound ace courts used for most Australian tournaments, including the Australian Open.

On-court temperatures were measured at 60 C (140 F) during last week's Australian Hardcourt Championships in Adelaide, prompting Austrian Horst Skoff to default midway through his first round match against American Jimmy Arias.

Another Austrian, Ulrike Priller, was treated for heat exhaustion during the 1990 Danone Open in Brisbane.

Air temperatures at tournaments in Adelaide and Brisbane last week reached 40 C (104 F). Australian John Fitzgerald described the conditions at last year's Australian Hardcourt Championships in Adelaide as "life-threatening."

The Players' Council of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) currently is studying the effects of heat and humidity with the intention of drawing up a code to be enforced at ATP tournaments.

Cash and Becker need not worry about the heat for the remainder of the week.

They are playing in the six-man Rio Challenge Exhibition Tournament at Memorial Drive — during which all matches will be played at night.

Other players in the field are Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden, U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras of the United States, Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia and American Richey Reneberg.

The exhibition is one of a series of warm-up events for the Australian Open, which begins Monday at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

NBA ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

KEVIN McHale, starting his first game of the season because of Larry Bird's back injury, scored 28 points and the Boston Celtics won their fourth consecutive game by defeating the New York Knicks 101-87 Tuesday night.

In other games Tuesday in the National Basketball Association (NBA), it was Atlanta 109, San Antonio 98; the Los Angeles Clippers 122, Indiana 107; Miami 95, Sacramento 83; Detroit 101, Charlotte 98; Chicago 111, New Jersey 102; Portland 123, Houston 97; Milwaukee 99, Washington 96; Utah 110, Cleveland 88; Seattle 96, the Los Angeles Lakers 88; and Golden State 147, Denver 125.

With Bird remaining in Boston with back spasms, the Celtics improved their record to 27-5, their best with five losses since they were 28-5 in 1972-73. The victory also was Boston's 12th in 13 games.

The Knicks, who lost by 27 points at Boston last week, led by as many as 11 in the first half of the rematch, but continued their losing ways against the NBA's best teams. They have lost 11 straight games to teams with winning records since beating Philadelphia on Nov. 17.

Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 25 points despite missing 15 of his first 20 shots. Heat 95, Kings 83.

Sherman Douglas, back in the lineup after missing three games with a finger injury, had 20 points and eight assists as Miami handed Sacramento its 12th consecutive road loss. Rookie Travis Mays scored 19 points and broke a Sacramento record by hitting all 14 of his free throws.

Hawks 109, Spurs 98.

Dominique Wilkins scored 40 points, 10 after a fourth-quarter challenge by San Antonio, as Atlanta downed the surging Spurs for its seventh straight victory.

David Robinson had 35 points

and 16 rebounds for the Spurs.

Clippers 122, Pacers 107.

Danny Manning and Benoit Benjamin scored 25 points apiece as Los Angeles ended a seven-game losing streak. Ken Norman had 24 points for Los Angeles, 3-15 on the road this season. Reggie Miller led Indiana with 25 points.

Pistons 101, Hornets 98.

Istiah Thomas scored 27 points and blocked a shot with four seconds left as Detroit held off hapless Charlotte for its seventh straight victory. Mike Gminski scored 20 points in his first start for Charlotte after his acquisition from Philadelphia.

Bulls 111, Nets 102.

Michael Jordan scored 41 points as Chicago won for the seventh time in eight games while sending New Jersey to its eighth straight loss. New Jersey got 15 points apiece from Sam Bowie and Derrick Coleman.

Trail Blazers 123, Rockets 97.

Clyde Drexler, Kevin Duckworth and Danny Ainge had 20 points apiece as Portland improved to 10-0 against midwest division teams. Otis Thorpe led Houston with 17 points and nine rebounds.

Bucks 99, Bulls 96.

Frank Brickowski hit two free throws with 15.8 seconds left as Milwaukee broke an 18-year-old single-season club with its 18th straight home victory.

Jazz 110, Cavaliers 88.

Jeff Malone scored 28 points and the Utah Jazz had a 25-5 surge in the third quarter en route to their sixth straight victory and Cleveland's eighth straight loss.

Supersonics 96, Lakers 88.

Derrick McKey scored 29 points and Seattle took advantage of the absence of Magic Johnson to beat Los Angeles. Shawn Kemp and Michael Cage scored 14 points apiece for Seattle.

Olympic champ gets revenge over Australian swimmer in Perth

PERTH, Australia (R) — Olympic Champion Janet Evans, twice upstaged by Hayley Lewis this week, gained sweet revenge when she conquered the Australian in the 400 metres freestyle at the World Swimming Championships Wednesday.

The American, out of the medals in Monday's 400 individual medley and second behind Lewis in the Tuesday's 200 freestyle, clearly meant business as she seized the lead from the start and sped to victory.

Evans, beaten only once in her speciality events in a major championship in the past four years before Perth, inched ahead of her 16-year-old rival and touched nearly one second in front at the finish.

The 19-year-old American clocked four minutes 8.63 seconds, with Lewis second in 4:09.40 and 15-year-old Suzu Chiba of Japan third in 4:11.44.

It was a great result for Chiba who experienced the disappointment of winning Tuesday's 200

freestyle B final in a time which would have won her the silver medal behind Lewis in the A final.

Lewis, fastest qualifier ahead of Evans, took her medal tally to three following her silver in the 400 individual medley and gold in the 200 freestyle.

Olympic champion Matt Biondi gave the United States their second title of the evening, outclassing all rivals to retain his 100 freestyle crown.

Biondi, winner of seven medals at the last World Championships in Madrid in 1986, built up a commanding lead on the first length and looked unassailable by the time he reached the turn the best part of a second in front.

The big American, who trailed in sixth in Tuesday's 100 butterfly, touched in 49.18, with Swede Tommy Werner second in 49.63 and European champion Giorgio Lamberti of Italy — the new 200 freestyle world champion — third in 49.82.

Biondi was fast away with compatriot Shaun Jordan who had caused a delay with a false start at the first attempt to get the race going.

Biondi hit the turn in 23.36, ahead of Werner and 1986 silver medalist Stephan Caron of France who faded on the second length to finish sixth.

Kristina Egerszegi maintained Hungary's winning momentum, surging away with the women's 100 metres backstroke ahead of team mate Tunde Szabo.

Egerszegi, who won Olympic gold in the 200 backstroke and silver in the 100, dominated the race and won in 1:01.78.

Her victory followed the Hungarian world-record triumphs of Norbert Rozsa in the men's 100 breaststroke and Tamas Daranyi in the 400 individual medley.

Szabo, 16 like Egerszegi but a newcomer to the world stage, claimed the silver in 1:01.98.

Liverpool beats 2nd division cup challengers

LONDON (R) — Liverpool, so nearly humiliated in the third round of the English F.A. Cup last weekend, crushed second-division challengers Blackburn Rovers 3-0 in the replay Tuesday.

The league champions escaped one of the biggest upsets in F.A. Cup history Saturday when Blackburn, with a 1-0 advantage, conceded an own goal seconds from time.

But in the replay Liverpool took control from the opening whistle, notching two goals in the first 23 minutes.

Ireland international Ray Houghton gave them the ideal start with a goal after 15 minutes and then set up the second for Welsh striker Ian Rush eight minutes later.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JANUARY 10, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a big desire to produce results of your own choosing so make a point of getting into the things you wish to do and carry through with decisions that you have made in the last weeks.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You certainly have the urge to get together with good friends and interesting acquaintances far more than usual so do so if possible.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are eager to make your mark in the world now and you are now able to do so by showing you are a good, solid citizen who likes civic activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are very openminded to all kinds of new activities now so get out and get the various forms of literature necessary to answer any questions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There is an exceptional hunch you now have that shows you the way to a greater amount of success and happiness so study how to increase your productivity.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think over some course whereby you have the good will of a partner who is deeply involved in your affairs and with whom you need some close contact.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) The activities you have in mind on this day requires a more adv-

anced appliance or invention than you are now using to get ahead with your duties.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You awake feeling just great and interested in putting your own special hobby or recreation in motion so you can enjoy it for sometime to come.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Let that family member who is somewhat disgruntled be more aware that you want peace and harmony at home and show you are a sincere family member.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Taking some time out to answer those communications you have received is very good for you to contact others in every way possible.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the moment when you can raise the level of your present income by some methods that may seem unusual but are in line with modern practices.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have that urge now to force issues but a smile, a word of encouragement and a pat on the back gets you what you want very easily today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) All kinds of personal and private activities have to be done by you now if you are to gain the good will and the active alliance of the expert you really need.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I discovered what's upsetting your stomach. There's a family of fairies camped out in your belly button."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY 11, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Think in terms of cooperative arrangements and whatever obligations you would like to eliminate once and for all. Plan to make you mark in the world of creative activity now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some determined new condition you want to put in motion but you have blocks or unfortunate conditions holding you up so accept them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You want to burst out from under current limitations but you'd only find yourself further behind the eight ball of confusion so be patient.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have in mind that does necessitate contacting friends should be put off till a better time or if you must see them be most polite.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you take any chances with your good name or in any dealings with one who has power and position you are going to lose out a lot.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) There are some new interests and activities that just fascinate you but they are not what you think they are for you have some reservations.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Financial obligations need to be treated with a great deal of

respect now or you are apt to lose out with some associates who expect a great deal.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There are many points of differences between you and your allies now but you would be wise to avoid focusing any attention on where you disagree.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have much work to do and you'd best do it instead of trying to get others to do it for you or neglecting to do it in an expert manner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You now find that you are so eager to have a good time you can sidestep one of the most vital and important projects you have and lose much face.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you want to do that does require you to get the good will of your family is important and you should do nothing without their ok.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you want to take a trip or communicate with others, you must have a very precise and careful course worked out or you can have big troubles.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now see that it is necessary for you to have more money if you are able to keep ahead of your expenses but first delete unnecessary expenses.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TARNNAH HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ 1072 ♠ 10654 ♠ AK873
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 3 ♣ ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ94 ♠ J ♠ AQ ♠ AK10742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ ?
What action do you take?

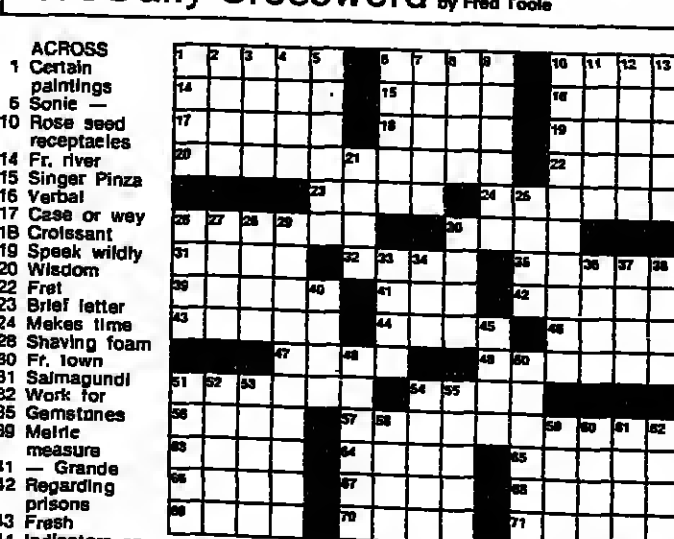
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 65 ♠ 10654 ♠ KS ♠ J1095
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 2 ♣ ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 32 ♠ AK85 ♠ AK63 ♠ K62
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

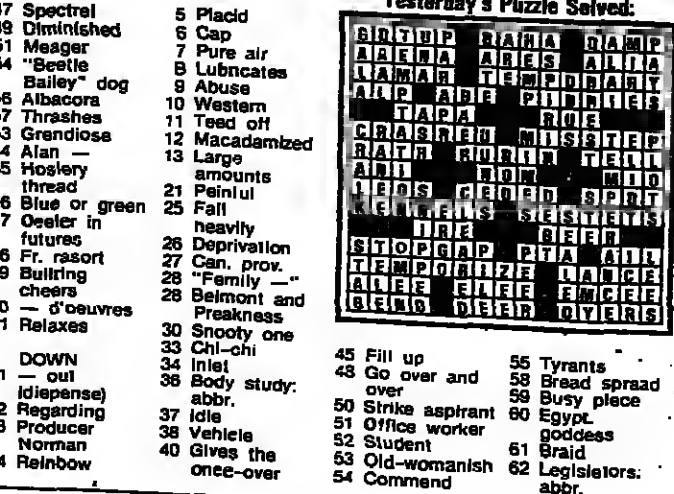
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q ♠ QJ42 ♠ AJ ♠ AKJ932
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K107 ♠ KQ8 ♠ AQ93 ♠ 1082
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?

THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Bulgarians strike deal on reforms

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's caretaker government, struggling to pull the country from economic chaos, won assurances from trade unions Tuesday that they would accept proposed price increases and ban strikes for seven months.

Leaders of the three-week-old caretaker government and the official and independent trade unions signed an agreement Tuesday to accept liberalisation of all prices except electricity, gas, coal and petrol and would not call strikes before the end of July.

The agreement said the freeing of state-controlled prices would take place before the end of January. The prices of a number of essentials, including milk, bread, meat, butter, sugar, cooking oil and public transport would also be subject to change but kept under government control.

"This agreement is a real support of the government in order to stop the crisis spiralling further," Prime Minister Dimitar Popov told reporters after signing the document.

Bulgaria's previous government of former communists bowed to pressure for a general strike and resigned last November, having done little to relieve chronic food and fuel shortages and a \$10 billion foreign debt.

According to the government's plan, wages will go up by 70 per cent in mid January to compensate for increased prices.

"We will not limit the real consumption of the people, we will reconstruct it and we should not permit hunger," Finance Minister Ivan Kostov told journalists.

The agreement also envisages a two-stage increase in interest rates and a liberalisation of the hard currency rate of Bulgaria's national currency, the lev.

World stacks up oil in readiness for war

PARIS (R) — The industrialised world has built up more than three months supply of oil in case of a war in the Gulf, the West's energy watchdog body said Wednesday.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) said world oil output is at an eight-month high and stocks in industrialised nations are at their highest since 1982.

Together with company stocks, the 24 industrialised countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have 469 million tonnes of oil, it noted.

Oil stocks rose at a rate of 200,000 barrels per day (p/d) in the last three months of 1990, confounding earlier IEA projections of a daily stock reduction of 500,000 b/d.

Producer countries are holding around 100 million barrels of unsold oil — between 50 and 60 million more than usual — in preparation for a war if Iraq refuses to leave from Kuwait by a United Nations deadline next Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia and Iran, which together accounted for half of oil output by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the last three months of 1990, both boosted shipments in late December as prospects of war increased.

Faster OPEC output in December helped raise world supplies, excluding net imports from the former centrally planned economies, to 54.3 million b/d in December, some 300,000 above November and the highest since May.

Venezuela, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia were credited with boosting OPEC output to 23.5 million b/d from 23.2 million in November.

raise production since supplies of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude cut off in the wake of the invasion last August, has helped calm the oil market.

The price of benchmark North Sea Brent blend, was around \$26.30 a barrel Wednesday.

A Gulf war may send world futures markets into a frenzy and catapult oil prices up to \$65 a barrel but Asia's oil refiners are topped up and ready for bad news.

"We are already prepared for the worst," said an official at Tawhian's Chinese Petroleum Corp (CPC).

Asia's refiners have spent the last five months stockpiling cargoes of crude oil and say a short disruption in Middle East supplies if a war breaks out will not pose a problem.

"At the tanks are brimming," said a Japanese refiner.

"You can see that from the lack of demand now," said a trader for a European oil company. "There's been a bit of toe dangle in the water from South Korea but that's all."

"I personally will not worry," said the Japanese refiner. "We expected a much colder winter and had to reduce crude processing drastically so stocks are very high."

Taiwan now has about 140 days worth of crude oil in stock in preparation for any disruption in supply caused by a war. In normal times, it holds about 90 days worth of stocks.

In addition, Taiwan has concluded option deals with major oil companies to lift additional volumes of oil if necessary, amounting to another 10 to 15 days supply.

"So we're very comfortable," said the CPC official.

The main concern to buyers now is the hefty insurance premiums charged on voyages into

the Gulf, and the problem of finding any vessel willing to load at Saudi Arabia's Gulf ports after the U.N. deadline.

"We want to charter a vessel in the second half of January but no one will give us an offer," said the CPC official.

"No one is quoting any insurance rates into the Gulf after Jan. 15," a Singapore ship broker said.

Insurance brokers say shipping companies that operate in the Middle East face a possible 200 per cent increase in insurance rates if war breaks out in the Gulf.

The other problem for buyers is that mines planted in the Gulf shipping lanes could disrupt traffic.

"The main thing I worry about is that mines could prevent sailings into the Gulf — but even then the disruption to supply will be limited to a very short time," said the Japanese refiner.

During the eight year Iran-Iraq war, minesweepers cleared the shipping lanes and most tankers hit by missiles were able to proceed after repairs.

However, since Aug. 2, refiners have diversified their supply sources away from the Gulf region. Taiwan's optional supplies would come from West Africa, Australia, or Oman which is at the mouth of the Gulf, the CPC official said.

Refiners would start feeling the pinch if a war drags on. "If a war lasts more than a month there would be a problem," said the CPC official.

Romania to sack 200,000 workers

BUCHAREST (R) — The Romanian government plans to fire about 200,000 metal workers and miners as part of a drive to save power and raw materials, an official spokesman said.

"About 200,000 metallurgical workers and miners working in non-ferrous pits will be made redundant and will get 50 per cent of their pay for the next month as unemployment benefits," government spokesman Bogdan Baltazar told Reuters.

Bucharest radio quoted Prime Minister Petre Roman as telling ministers that Romania faced great difficulties due to a severe shortage of resources and power.

The Gulf crisis has had a severe impact on Romania, which depended on Iraq for one quarter of its oil imports.

Germany has offered to supply 390 megawatts of electricity to Romania between January and March to help citizens get through the winter.

The redundancies will be the first bitter taste of a market economy for Romanian workers accustomed to 45 years of rigid state planning, where subsidised non-profitable industries created an illusion of secure jobs.

"We have to deal with 200,000 cases. Some workers do not want to leave, others are not qualified for new jobs, those who are relocated claim good housing, schools for their children and jobs for their wives," Baltazar said.

"We have already started to relocate workers in other branches but the chances are not terrific," he said.

Meanwhile, Romania's month-on-month inflation rate in November was 23.4 per cent, according to the country's first Western-style consumer price index.

National Board of Statistics (NBS) experts, quoted by the official Rompres news agency, described the rise from October as "unexpectedly small."

The consumer price index, a main measure of inflation, was computed for the first time using the Laspeyres formula common to most Western market economies, NBS Vice-President Alexandru Radocica told reporters.

"Inflation itself was a non-word in socialist economies, as the theory said the phenomenon was strictly a reflex of capitalist economies," one Romanian expert said.

Romania's National Salvation Front government pledged after the December 1989 uprising which toppled Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to move from a centrally planned to a market-style economy.

Saudi banks mobilise for Gulf war cash run

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia's joint-venture banks have prepared for panic withdrawals which may follow a possible outbreak of war in the Gulf after Tuesday's deadline expires for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Saudi-based bankers said Wednesday the kingdom's nine joint-venture banks, flush with cash, could cope with any sudden loss of deposits and expected sharply higher 1990 profits despite the Gulf crisis.

"We're not expecting a run on banks in general, but I sleep well at night because I know we're totally prepared for any emergency," Mehli Mistri, managing director of Saudi American Bank (Samba), the country's largest joint venture, told Reuters.

"The banks are well geared up in terms of liquidity — we will not be caught by surprise this time," Aman Mehta, managing director of Saudi British Bank, told Reuters.

"There's no sign of a panic yet but if there is it won't cause problems in balancing our books or meeting depositor demands. We could take a fairly severe shock," he added.

Bankers say the kingdom's commercial banks lost around 11 per cent of their total deposits in the month following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, its northern neighbour.

Since then cash from higher government oil revenues has flooded back into the system. A business boom fuelled by the influx of more than half a million foreign troops has more than compensated for the negative impact of the Gulf crisis.

"People have held off on many expansion contracts and there have been lower orders of some consumer and basic goods but this has been more than offset by a myriad of other contracts on the defence side," Mehta said.

Bankers said they did not believe Saudis would rush to withdraw money if war broke out because six weeks had gone by since the United Nations had authorised the use of force against Iraq if it didn't withdraw

from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

"People have had a chance to withdraw their money already. There could be some withdrawal in the situation but I doubt they will be massive," Mistri said.

The bankers said each Saudi bank had prepared for a major panic by boosting rial liquidity and keeping large floats of foreign currency and travellers cheques.

They had also restructured balance sheets, sharply boosting levels of disposable assets.

Some banks said they could withstand losing up to 50 per cent of their total deposits. Bankers said the system as a whole could easily cope with the loss of 15-20 per cent.

Steps taken by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) also helped banks maintain their liquidity over the past few months.

SAMA introduced a dollar swap facility for Saudi banks two months ago. In August, it raised the amount banks could borrow through a repurchase facility to 50 per cent of their holdings for government bonds. Both measures are still in effect.

Bankers said they had quietly stepped up security against sabotage in the past few weeks. Contingency plans included lessons learned from the Kuwaiti

crisis — banks had duplicated essential records and had backup computer systems in place.

On Monday SAMA sent a circular asking banks to ensure that their account records were safe, that liquidity was high enough to prevent interbank borrowing, and that they would be able to service customers at any branch in the kingdom.

"We're prepared for anything short of a direct nuclear attack," one banker commented.

Mistri said Samba, owned 40 per cent by Citibank, expected a 20-25 per cent increase in 1990 profit over the previous year's total of 421.7 million riyals (\$112.4 million).

"It was a good year for us in spite of the August events. To some extent banks have benefited from the crisis," he said.

Mehta declined to give an estimate but said Saudi British, owned 40 per cent by British Bank of the Middle East, also anticipated much higher 1990 profit. The bank's nine-month net profit of 142.2 million riyals (\$38 million) was 15 per cent higher than the whole of 1989.

United Saudi Commercial Bank, one of the kingdom's smaller joint ventures, said it expected a 30 per cent rise in net 1990 profit from the previous year's 95.3 million riyals (\$25.4 million).

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed firmer after a day of sluggish trading ahead of the U.S.-Iraqi talks in Geneva. The Nikkei Index finished 71.43 points up at 22,969.27.

SYDNEY — Heavy futures selling fuelled by the threat of a Middle East war helped drive the market lower for the fifth trading day in a row. The All Ordinaries Index finished 4.4 points lower at 2,330.5.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks closed higher in a trade thinned by a meeting in Geneva between Washington and Baghdad. The Blue Chip Hang Seng Index, down some nine points in early trade, climbed 18.18 points to close at 3,027.60.

SINGAPORE — Shares ended higher ahead of talks between the United States and Iraq on the Gulf crisis. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 6.70 points to 1,167.29.

FRANKFURT — Shares jumped 1.6 per cent in extremely nervous trade, lifted by speculation that the length of a meeting between U.S. and Iraqi foreign ministers in Geneva could signal a peaceful outcome to the Gulf crisis. The 30-share Dax Index climbed 21.21 points to 1,375.16.

PARIS — Optimism for peace in the Gulf propelled French shares higher in active afternoon trading. The CAC-40 Blue Chip Index surged 49.42 points, or 3.29 per cent, to 1,552.19.

ZURICH — Shares closed firmer in thin trading as Gulf peace talks in Geneva continued longer than expected, nourishing hopes that war could be avoided. The All-Share SPI Index rose 11.5 points or 1.33 per cent to 876.9.

LONDON — Prices were firm but below the day's best levels on hopes of a diplomatic solution in the Gulf. The FTSE-100 Index was up 28.2 points at 2,128.1.

NEW YORK — Blue Chips were trading at fresh highs, gaining strength from hopes of a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis. The Dow was up 40 points at 2,550.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, January 9, 1991

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	67.0	67.1
Pound Sterling	22.2	22.3
Deutsche mark	43.8	43.4
Swiss franc	51.3	51.8
French franc	127.5	128.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	487.5	490.4
Dutch guilder	383.9	382.2
Swedish crown	116.3	117.0
Italian lira (for 100)	57.6	57.9
Belgian franc (for 10)	210.1	211.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.9005/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1518/28	Canadian dollars
	1.5378/85	Deutsche marks
	1.7345/55	Dutch guilders
	1.2947/54	Swiss francs
	31.68/73	Belgian francs
	5.2200/50	French francs
	1156/7	Italian lire
	136.15/25	Japanese yen
	5.7270/20	Swedish crowns
	6.0180/30	Norwegian crowns
	5.9280/30	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	389.30/389.80	U.S. dollars

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(Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOM** Tel: 675571

WHITE GHOST

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

HER ALIBI

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Ahmad Zaki — Raghda

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Have you registered with the British Embassy? If you are a British citizen and live in Jordan please contact the British Embassy, Consular Section, in order to obtain a registration form.

If you have registered during 1990 please confirm your continuing presence in Jordan by re-registering as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club.

Telephone 623100. The Post Office Box Number is 87.

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Soviet armoured cars take up positions in Vilnius

Yeltsin condemns Kremlin order

Georgia rejects ultimatum, warns of war

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, Wednesday condemned a Kremlin order to send paratroops to enforce conscription in rebellious republics and said it would lead to violence.

"I am against such a decision. Violence leads to greater violence. We must, therefore, negotiate," Yeltsin told reporters after meeting Japanese parliamentarians.

The Soviet Defence Ministry said Monday it was sending thousands of extra paratroops to several areas, including the Baltics, where the military draft has been defied with the encouragement of local authorities.

The United States has condemned the Soviet decision and urged Moscow to abandon its crackdown.

Yeltsin, an increasingly bitter critic of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, said: "This is a frontal attack. There will be a frontal attack in response."

"Here it is necessary to sit down with each republic and very carefully examine the question and find the solution."

Yeltsin cited recent examples of negotiated settlements between the Kremlin and restive republics, including a budget compromise with Russia.

He said he was discussing with the Defence Ministry the possible use of 1,000 army recruits to work on the Moscow metro, which is chronically short of labour.

Nationalists in the three Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia regard Soviet forces as an army of occupation. The republics were annexed by the Soviet Union during World War II.

Other targets for tougher draft enforcement include the southern republic of Georgia — which also wants to break away from the Soviet Union — Moldova and parts of the Ukraine.

Monday's Defence Ministry order said draft evasion was unacceptable in some parts of the

country. Only 10 per cent of conscripts had reported in Georgia and 12.5 per cent in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian News Agency ELTA said local officials had counted 108 Soviet military vehicles, including armoured cars, arriving near the capital, Vilnius, early Tuesday morning from a nearby military base.

Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar, also in Moscow, said the Defence Ministry order was really aimed at overcoming Baltic independence movements. He warned of serious consequences.

"The situation is whipped up and the consequences could be most serious — blood could flow," Savisaar told a news conference.

Meanwhile the parliament of rebel Georgia Wednesday rejected an ultimatum from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the use of its national police and warned it would regard as "an act of war" any attempt to enforce it.

Georgian journalists said the parliament in the Transcaucasian republic's capital, Tbilisi, voted unanimously to defy Gorbachev order to pull police out of the troubled territory of South Ossetia.

"If an attempt is made to forcefully remove detachments of Georgian police from this region, the Supreme Soviet of Georgia will consider this as an effective declaration of war against the Georgian Republic," the resolution said, according to the journalists.

TASS news agency said the Transcaucasian military district had dispatched paratroops to the South Ossetian capital of Tskhinvali, where one man was shot dead Tuesday.

The shooting brings the total killed in recent violence between Georgians and Ossetians to four.

The Georgian parliament denounced Gorbachev's order as "outright interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign re-

public."

"These actions of the centre are an act of intimidation against a sovereign republic which had declared its refusal to sign the union treaty," the resolution said, in a reference to the Kremlin's proposed treaty binding the centre to the republics.

Meanwhile the Soviet army moved military vehicles into strategic positions in Lithuania's capital Wednesday in a show of force in the breakaway Baltic republic, the republic's news agency said.

The Lithuanian News Agency ELTA said five armoured personnel carriers had been deployed outside the city's Television Technical Centre and other buildings including the main newspaper printing house.

It said 10,000 pro-independence demonstrators rallied in the main square in front of the parliament building after an appeal by Lithuanian Radio to turn out and defend parliament from assault by Soviet forces.

"We call on as many people as possible to gather around the parliament," the radio said in special appeals in both Lithuanian and Russian.

The radio quoted members of the breakaway republic's State Defence Council as saying an aircraft carrying 50 paratroopers and their officers had landed at Vilnius Airport.

The Lithuanian News Agency ELTA quoted the Defence Council as saying military helicopters were also landing at the airport.

ELTA said thousands of people in the Russian and Polish districts around Vilnius were massing at the call of the pro-Moscow "Yedinstvo" (Unity) group to march toward the parliament where a new prime minister is to be elected.

It said demonstrators were carrying slogans calling for the replacement of both the government and the parliament, which has led the Baltic republic in its

bid for restoration of its pre-war independence.

Earlier, a spokesman for parliament said five truck-loads of Soviet Interior Ministry troops dressed in police uniforms were patrolling the square in front of parliament. He said military loudspeakers had been mounted on a nearby building.

But the spokesman said officials there viewed the moves as preparations for the Yedinstvo rally.

The Soviet Defence Ministry said Monday it was sending thousands of extra paratroops to several areas, including the Baltics, where the military draft has been defied with the encouragement of local authorities.

The Lithuanian government has resigned amid signs of the fresh confrontation brewing between the Kremlin and the Baltic Republics over their defiance of Soviet army conscription.

"I resign with my cabinet of ministers," Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene told the Lithuanian parliament Tuesday after it voted to suspend government plans for steep increases in food prices.

The Lithuanian News Agency ELTA said the controversy over the price rises of up to 300 per cent could serve as a further pretext for action against the republic's separatist movement.

"According to unofficial information, an attempt will be made... to storm and occupy by every means the Supreme Council building," he was quoted as saying by the parliament's information office.

The statement, carried on Lithuanian Radio, urged people to guard against such an attack. "The only force which can protect us is you, dear Lithuanian people," he said.

"We wish to invite residents of Vilnius and other Lithuanian people to be on duty tonight and tomorrow at the parliament. These days we must be decisive. Our cohesion and resolution are very essential now."

U.S. voices concern over Soviet crackdown

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. administration has warned the Soviet Union that a crackdown on rebel Soviet republics jeopardises chances for a peaceful easing of tensions, but plans to proceed with financial moves to help Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

After a lengthy period of increasing warmth between Moscow and Washington, a chill has begun to develop as Gorbachev turns to stern measures to deal with ethnic unrest and mounting economic woes.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater Tuesday abandoned the administration's muted public criticism of the Kremlin and issued a stinging rebuke of a decision to dispatch elite combat troops to seven rebellious republics.

"The United States urges the USSR to cease attempts at intimidation and turn back to negotiations that are conducted free of pressure and the use of force," Fitzwater said.

The Soviet Defence Ministry has ordered thousands of paratroops to the breakaway Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, as well as Moldova, the Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia.

"This action represents a serious step towards an escalation of tension within the USSR and makes the peaceful evolution of relations among the peoples of the Soviet Union more difficult," Fitzwater said.

Race barriers abolished at some S. Africa schools

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Racial segregation in South Africa's state education system eased Wednesday when black pupils were admitted to some white schools at the start of a new term.

Thirty-three primary and secondary schools in Transvaal province opened their doors to all races under a government programme announced last year which gives white parents the right to vote for non-racial education in the schools attended by their children.

Another 171 schools elsewhere in South Africa, where parents also voted to admit blacks, will follow suit when their term starts later this month, making just over 10 per cent of previously all-white state schools open to all.

Multi-racial private schools have been allowed for years.

"We really need you," said Niels Frylinc, headmaster of Saxonwold Primary School in Johannesburg's affluent northern suburbs, which had one of the largest black intakes.

It registered more than 30 black children, some commuting 20 kilometres from the sprawling Soweto township to the west of the city, where schools are in crisis through lack of funds and political boycotts.

There seemed no apprehension among the pupils as they took their classroom seats, regardless of skin colour. "I am very happy. I already have a friend," said Koketso Selokane, a bubbly seven-year-old Sowetan.

Parents seemed to have more reservations than their children as they gathered before assembly at the small school, which had a roll this year of about 225.

Greek education minister quits over the teacher's death

ATHENS (R) — Greek Education Minister Vassilis Kontoyannopoulos resigned Wednesday following the death of a high school teacher in clashes over planned educational reforms, a government spokesman said.

High school teacher Nikos Temponeras, 38, was hit on the head and later died when a group of 25 people wielding iron bars clashed with students who had occupied their school in the Western port city of Patras.

About 12 students were injured in similar clashes around the country Wednesday. Some 1,000 schools have been occupied or shut down since mid-December by students demanding more funds for education

and the withdrawal of a controversial education reform bill. Kontoyannopoulos, who had weathered a number of student and teacher protests as education minister after the conservative government took office last April, was replaced by former National Economy Minister George Sofoulis.

The Socialist and Communist opposition parties called on the government to resign over Temponeras's death.

Thousands of students, teachers and parents, carrying black flags, marched to the Education Ministry. All high schools around the country remained closed Wednesday.

Diplomats, anti-nuclear activists concede no hope for action now

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Diplomats and anti-nuclear activists have conceded that they have no immediate hope of banning all nuclear tests in the face of U.S. and British opposition.

Soviet and Third World delegates to a conference to expand the 1963 nuclear test ban treaty hoped to amend the treaty to outlaw underground tests, the only type still permitted by the treaty.

They say that a total test ban will prevent about 15 nations on the verge of developing nuclear weapons, including Iraq and Pakistan, from perfecting sophisticated weapons, which require testing.

However, the United States and Britain remain steadfast against a ban on underground testing, saying it is necessary to ensure that weapons work and to test safety devices for them.

The original three signers of the 1963 treaty — the United States, Britain, and Soviet Union — must all agree to any amendment.

"President (George) Bush properly decries Saddam Hus-

sein's aggressive campaign to develop nuclear weapons, and correctly points to nuclear proliferation as one of the greatest risks to the survival of mankind. But the president opposes the one measure that would slam the door on nuclear proliferation, a comprehensive test ban," said Congressman Wayne Owens, a congressman from Utah.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday promised to end all Soviet underground nuclear tests if the United States also agreed to halt its test program, but Washington has always spurned such Soviet offers.

The head of the U.S. delegation, Mary Elizabeth Hoinikes, said Tuesday that not only would Washington block a total test ban amendment at the conference but it will not participate in any future amendment conferences or pay its share of their cost.

The United States is paying about \$84,000 of the approximately \$600,000-cost of the 70-nation conference, which opened Monday and ends on Jan. 18.

Delegates now say their best hope is to try to set up a continuing committee to keep the issue alive, lobby the U.S. and British public to support a test ban, and reconvene the conference later.

Iceland's Finance Minister, Olafur Grimsson, said, "the conference should agree to continue the negotiating process, that there should be another session of the conference in two or three years' time" to adopt the ban.

Ms. Hoinikes said nuclear testing actually advances disarmament, citing U.S. progress in reducing the megatonnage of its weapons over the years by refining them.

She disagreed with critics who say a test ban would prevent Third World nations from developing nuclear weapons, noting that any country can buy the technology to assemble a crude bomb on the black market.

Testing is only needed to refine sophisticated weapons, she said, and to eliminate design flaws and make weapons safer to handle.

Bhutto aides detained before by-elections

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Police arrested more than 20 senior members of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Wednesday in the southern province of Sindh, a party spokesman said.

Those arrested included former Sindh Province Chief Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani, party Deputy Secretary-General Nabi Dad Khan, three provincial ministers and a former provincial assembly speaker, Karachi PPP President Iqbal Haider said.

No police confirmation was immediately available. Police said they were investi-

gating the PPP report about the arrests at Gharo, 65 kilometres east of Karachi.

"All of them have been detained in the Gharo Police Station," Haider said.

The PPP members were travelling to the Sujawal area to help a PPP candidate, Wahid Soomro, contest a by-election Thursday, he said.

The provincial assembly seat at Sujawal fell vacant after a PPP member died of a heart attack last month.

Police have raided the homes of more than 40 activists of the

PPP, which leads the four-party Pakistan Democratic Alliance (PDA), Haider said.

More than 20 other people were picked up earlier in Thatta, 120 kilometres east of Karachi, as the country prepares for several by-elections Thursday, he said.

He could not give the exact number of arrests as he said details had yet to reach his office.

Bhutto has alleged that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance plans to rig the by-elections.

Republicans meet in Houston

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's hometown of Houston will host the 1992 Republican National convention, the party has announced.

Houston won the endorsement of the party's Site Selection Committee, a choice certain to be ratified on Jan. 25 by the Republican National Committee.

Barring a major political upheaval, the Republicans will meet on Aug. 17 through 20, 1992, to nominate Bush for a second term. Bush also has indicated his intention to retain Dan Quayle as his vice president.

Curfew clamped on Haiti capital after failed coup

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Sporadic gunfire, scattered street barricades and roving crowds in pursuit of Duvalierist thugs kept tensions high in this Caribbean nation Tuesday, one day after the army crushed a coup attempt.

The dead were still being counted following Monday's aborted coup and radio stations put the toll at about 50, mostly suspected members of the dreaded Tontons Macoutes who supported coup leader Roger Lafontant. Many of those killed

were stoned or hacked to death and then burned in the streets. Lafontant, a former interior minister under ousted dictator Jean-Claude "baby doc" Duvalier, is a reputed leader of the Macoutes, a paramilitary force founded during the Duvalier family's 29-year rule.

Lafontant tried to seize power Monday and prevent populist Roman Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the landslide winner last month of Haiti's first truly democratic elections, from taking power on Feb. 7.

U.S. Navy scrambles to replace cancelled jet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney's decision to cancel the A-12 attack plane leaves the navy scrambling for a replacement amid rampant speculation about a possible candidate.

In the meantime, the Pentagon said Tuesday it would try to recover about \$1.9 billion that had been paid to the aircraft's two contractors, General Dynamics Corp. and McDonnell Douglas Corp., on the A-12 programme.

Cheney, in announcing the cancellation late Monday, said the contractors were in default on a fixed-price contract to build eight prototypes of the Stealth attack plane.

To date, the Pentagon has paid \$3.1 billion on the \$4.8 billion contract and received \$1.2 billion in deliverable goods and services, Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told reporters.

"We have basically said the

contractor did not meet its obligations. It hasn't given us everything that we paid it for, so we're going to go back and get that money back," Williams said.

The cancellation of the A-12 is the largest weapons programme the Pentagon has ever terminated. Although the programme is classified secret, internal navy and Defence Department reports released recently said the project was more than 18 months behind schedule and at least \$1 billion over budget.

The programme also is the focus of a federal criminal investigation.

"The picture with the A-12 is that we had a contract under which the contractor was not performing, was not doing the design, the assembly, the tests, and various other requirements of the contract — wasn't meeting the contract," Williams said Tuesday.

Sikh militants kill 12 Hindus in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (R) — Suspected Sikh militants lined up a kidnapped group of Hindus at a Punjab railway station and killed 12 of them, Indian police said Wednesday.

They quoted a survivor as saying the Sikhs rounded up 14 Hindus in the northern state's industrial city of Ludhiana late Tuesday and took them to a small country railway station about 15 kilometres away.

The militants, fighting for a separate Sikh homeland, lined the Hindus up and shot them.

The unnamed survivor was quoted as saying he and a companion sprinted into the darkness as the line-up was taking place and escaped.

After wandering terrified through the countryside all night, the survivor reported the incident to police Wednesday morning, police said.

They said it was not immediately clear why these particular Hindus had been selected for death.

Sikh militants waging a decade-old campaign for an independent homeland they call Khalistan (Land of the Pure) frequently attack Hindus.

By doing so, militant organisations hope to provoke a Hindu exodus from rich, agricultural Punjab, where Sikhs are only just a majority.

They also hope to provoke an anti-Sikh backlash elsewhere in overwhelmingly Hindu India that would prompt Sikhs to head back to Punjab for safety.

London denies skimping on rail safety to save money

LONDON (AP) — Britain's transport minister denied charges that the Conservative government has skimped on the state-run rail network's safety to save money.

His comments came after a train accident Tuesday killed one man and injured 248 people.

The crowded commuter train slammed into a crash barrier during morning rush hour at a London station. British Rail suggested brake failure might have caused the accident.

Critics said the 10-car train, carrying about 1,000 passengers, was overcrowded. The 35-year-old train was due for replacement in two years.

"The train in today's accident had come to the end of its time. ... It's all down to money," said David Sallery, spokesman for the Railway Development Society, a consumer group protesting government plans to cut rail subsidies.

Transport Minister Roger Freeman said the accident was caused "for serious concern," but denied the network was disregarding safety to save money.

Firemen took nearly five hours to cut free 15 passengers trapped in the two mangled centre cars. One man was cut from the wreckage alive but died on his way to the hospital, officials said.

The accident occurred as the train arrived in the Cannon Street Station in London's financial district from Sevenoaks, about 32 kilometres southeast of London. British Rail said the train was travelling about 8

kilometres per hour when it struck the crash barrier.

"The driver put the brake on in the normal way and the train did not stop," said Chris Green, director of Network Southeast, the busiest section of the national railroad.

However, he said the cause of the crash had not been determined.

"There could be any number of reasons... there will be a full inquiry," he said.

Passenger David Lloyd, 20, in the first car, said he heard the driver call out, "hold on, hold on" as the train pulled into the station.

He said there was a deafening crash, and that he leaped from the train and saw the driver looking dazed.

"He kept saying, 'the brakes failed, the brakes failed'" said Lloyd.

The impact hurled the sixth car on top of the fifth, flinging passengers around the cars and trapping some in wreckage. Green said of the 248 people injured, 30 of them were seriously hurt.

In December 1988, 35 people were killed and 500 injured in a three-train crash at a busy junction in south London after faulty wiring caused a red stop signal to remain green.

On Monday, magistrates ordered British Rail to face a criminal trial over that accident. An inquiry cited "dangerous working practices" by British Rail staff. If convicted, the railway could face huge fines.

Three subsequent rail acci-

dents before Tuesday killed seven people and injured more than 100.

Bank employee Charlotte Stout was a few minutes away from the start of another working day in London's financial district when her commuter train pulled into the Cannon Street Station Tuesday morning.

Suddenly, with a deafening bang, the train seemed to collapse in on itself. Commuters who had been standing around her preparing to get off were hurled in every direction.

"Suddenly bodies were falling everywhere," said Stout, 20.

The train had hit the crash barriers at the station, collapsing the fifth and sixth carriages in the 10-car train.

Bleeding passengers poured off the train. Dazed executives in blood-spattered pinstriped suits staggered along the platform.

Ambulances, helicopters and even a red London double-decker bus helped ferry victims to hospital.

At least one died and at least 180 were hurt, officials said. Sirens wailed over the narrow streets surrounding the 19th-century station in the city of London, the one-square-mile (1.6-square-kilometre) international financial district at the heart of the British capital.

Traffic, which moves at snail's pace in the city of London on normal business days, ground to a halt as police cars cleared space for ambulances.

John Pierce, a tax official, escaped from one of the man-

gled centre cars with his head gashed by a falling briefcase.

"I heard cries from the back of my carriage in the centre of the train and looked round. ... All the seats had gone, there wasn't a lot left really," said Pierce.

Accountant Rosemary Warren, who was travelling on another train, heard nothing as her train pulled in. She walked into Platform 3 just after the crash.

"I saw people standing or sitting on the floor with blood on their faces, mostly around their mouths as if they had bitten their tongues and lips," said Ms. Warren.

"It was quite quiet. There was no shouting, whistling, sirens. ... Then about a dozen police arrived and began shouting to people to get out of the way for the emergency services."

Some survivors were lifted into wheelchairs, others taken away on foot were seen limping. Many had head wounds and paramedics applied bandages on the platform or in the station lobby.

The most seriously injured were taken out on stretchers, covered with blankets. At one point a black wood coffin was wheeled into the station.

As firemen cut into the wreckage with equipment, volunteer workers talked to trapped passengers in an effort to keep their spirits up.

Cannon Street, one of the landmark rail stations built by the Victorians in the last century, was badly bombed in World War II but its two huge, ornamental Victorian towers on the riverside were preserved.

Column

Late Stalin aide stripped of honours

MOSCOW (R) — Klimenty Voroshilov, long a close aide to late dictator Josef Stalin and president of the Soviet Union during the 1950s, has been stripped of posthumous honours, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported.

TASS said the Soviet government had annulled decisions taken after his death in 1969 to name the Army General Staff Academy, a large anti-submarine warship and a Defence Ministry sanatorium after him. Over the past four years Voroshilov, long praised as a hero at Stalin's side in the 1918-20 Russian Civil War between Bolsheviks and white forces, has been increasingly condemned for his role in the dictator's later bloody purges.

His name appeared on many documents of the late 1930s sentencing army commanders, accused of being Western spies, to death. He also made many public speeches denigrating former top Bolsheviks shot by Stalin as "scum and traitors."

After Stalin's death in 1953, he spoke in favour of new leader Nikita Khrushchev's of joining a conspiracy by other former Stalin aides to restore a hard-line regime. Khrushchev had him removed from the presidency, then a purely ceremonial post, in 1960. But he was restored to official favour by Leonid Brezhnev, who replaced Khrushchev in 1964.

Thousands of students, teachers and parents, carrying black flags, marched to the Education Ministry. All high schools around the country remained closed Wednesday.

Travolta to marry actress Kelly Preston

LOS ANGELES (R) — John Travolta, star of Look Who's Talking and Urban Cowboy, has become engaged to actress Kelly Preston and given her a giant six-carat yellow and white diamond ring, Travolta's spokesman said. It will be the first marriage for 36-year-old Travolta and the second for Preston, 28, who stars in the new film Run. The couple became engaged at midnight on New Year's Eve in the Swiss resort of Gstaad, spokesman Paul Bloch said.

Travolta and Preston first met in 1988 when they appeared together in the film The Experts and met again later in Canada, Bloch said. Actress Sally Kellerman and her husband, producer Jonathan Krame, were with the couple when they became engaged. No date has been set for the wedding, Bloch added.

Amateur astronomer discovers new comet

CLOUDCROFT, New Mexico (AP) — A new comet was discovered by an amateur astronomer peering through a telescope with a 16-inch (41-centimetre) mirror that he had ground by hand. "It looked like a cotton ball with a real bright condensed centre," said Howard Brewington, an electronics technician. "It was almost starlight, diffused, fuzzy."

Brewington, who has discovered another Comet on Nov. 16, 1989, said he saw the comet at 9:15 p.m. Sunday (0213 GMT Monday) in the south sky in the area of the pisces constellation. He said Monday he hunts for comets every clear moonless night, but Sunday night was his lucky night as he scanned the skies from his back yard. "It has been overcast the last few nights, so I hadn't been able to hunt," said Brewington, who lives in the mountainous Cloudcroft area of southern New Mexico.

"But last night was a perfect clear night. I had swept the northern part of the sky a few nights ago, so I made a few sweeps across the sky and at 9:11 p.m. (0211 GMT), I decided to make one more sweep and there it was. I knew immediately that it was a comet." He said he telephoned the International Astronomical Union (IAU) — a Smithsonian Institution in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where astronomical findings must be confirmed. "Usually after-hours, you have to send a coded telegram," he said. "But I decided to call just to see if I could catch someone there, and I did."